

POOR RELIEF (IRELAND) INQUIRY COMMISSION.

REPORT AND EVIDENCE,

WITH

APPENDICES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



DUBLIN:

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WARRANT OF APPOINTMENT.

BY THE LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND GENERAL
GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

LONDONDERRY.

WHEREAS it appears unto us expedient that an inquiry should be held into the financial condition of the following Unions which were the Unions named in the Schedule to the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1886, Balmullet, Clifden, Galway, Oughterard, Swinesford, Westport.

NOW, WE, CHARLES STEWART MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY, Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland, do hereby nominate and appoint you, CHRISTOPHER TALBOT REYNOLDS, and HENRY A. ROBINSON, both of you being duly appointed Inspectors under the Local Government Board for Ireland, to be our Commissioners, to proceed with the utmost despatch to inquire into and investigate, and report fully on the following subjects:—

1. The expenditure and number of persons relieved under the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1886, in each of the said Unions, and the manner in which such relief has been administered, and the necessity for the expenditure which has been incurred.

2. The liabilities of each Union on the 29th of September, 1886, distinguishing the debts incurred for ordinary expenditure from those due in respect of exceptional out-door relief.

3. The rate that would be required in each Electoral Division in each of the Unions to meet the whole of the liabilities referred to above; and to provide for expenditure during the year ending the 29th September, 1887.

4. To what extent can rates be levied in each of the Unions and Electoral Divisions to provide for the liabilities and expenditure referred to in Clause 3.

5. What was the amount of the rates collected in each Electoral Division during the year ended the 29th September, 1886. What is the class of rate-payers from whom arrears are due; what is the cause of non-collection in any District in which there may be large arrears outstanding; what efforts have been made to recover such arrears; and what further measures, if any, could be taken for that purpose with reasonable probability of success.

6. Whether, with respect to the execution of the Poor Law, Medical Charities, Public Health, and other Acts, in ordinary years, the workhouse test is properly applied, and due regard paid to economy in the administration of the law; and whether rates can be levied to meet the necessary annual expenditure, without unduly taxing the ratepayers.

7. Whether, if the resources of any of these Unions are insufficient for the proper administration of the laws above referred to, the taxation of the rate-

payers could be lessened by any alteration in the boundaries of such Union or Unions, or by any other change, without injury or danger to the sick and destitute poor.

And we do hereby authorize you, by all lawful and proper ways and means, to make full inquiry into the matters aforesaid in such places as to you may seem necessary and convenient.

And for the better enabling you to make the said investigation, we hereby grant unto you full authority, for all or any of the purposes aforesaid, to call and examine before you such persons as you shall deem necessary and competent, by whom you may be the better informed on the matters herein submitted for your consideration; and also to call for and examine all such books, documents, papers, and records as you shall judge likely to afford you the fullest information on the subject of this Commission, and otherwise to inquire of and concerning the premises, and every part thereof, by all reasonable ways and means.

Provided always that nothing herein contained shall affect the position of either of you as Inspector of the Local Government Board for Ireland, or abridge or diminish the power and authority possessed by either of you as such Inspector; and that, notwithstanding the issue of these presents, each of you may and shall continue to perform the duties and exercise the powers belonging to the office of such Inspector as aforesaid.

And we enjoin that upon the examination of the premises you do, as soon as can reasonably be after the date of this Commission, certify and report to us in writing, under your hands and seals respectively, what you shall have done and may find concerning the premises, upon such inquiry and investigation as aforesaid, together with your opinions touching and concerning the several matters hereby referred for your consideration.

And for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

Given at Dublin Castle, this 3rd day of November, 1886.

By his Excellency's command.

R. G. C. HAMILTON

POOR RELIEF (IRELAND) INQUIRY COMMISSION.

REPORT.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY CHARLES STEWART MARQUESS OF
LONDONDERRY,

LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Your Excellency having been pleased to issue a Warrant bearing date the 3rd November, 1886, authorising and directing us to inquire into and investigate and report fully on the following subjects:—

I. The expenditure and number of persons relieved under the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1886, in each of the Unions scheduled under the Act, the manner of administering such relief, and the necessity for the expenditure incurred.

Scope of
Commissioners' In-
quiry.

II. The liabilities of each Union on the 29th of September, 1886, distinguishing the amount due for ordinary expenditure from debts in respect of exceptional out-door relief.

III. The rate required in each Electoral Division of each Union to meet the total liabilities referred to, and the expenditure during the year ending the 29th of September next.

IV. To what extent can rates be levied in each Electoral Division to meet the total sum referred to in Clause III.

V. The amount of rates collected during the year ended the 29th of September, 1886; the class of ratepayers owing arrears; the cause of non-collection where large arrears are outstanding; the efforts made to recover such arrears; and the further measures which could be taken successfully for that purpose.

VI. Whether with respect to the Poor Law and other Acts administered by the Guardians, the workhouse test is properly applied; economy duly regarded; and whether the ratepayers can meet the ordinary yearly expenditure without undue taxation.

VII. If the resources of any Union be insufficient for the proper administration of the Acts referred to, whether the rates could be lessened by alteration of Union boundaries or other change, without injury to the sick and destitute poor.

We have the honour to report that, in obedience to Your Excellency's command we have inquired into the several matters referred to us for our consideration.

Proceedings
of Commis-
sioners.

We have held inquiries in Belmullet, Westport, Clifden, Swineford, Oughterard, Galway, and Ballina.

We have summoned before us the officials connected with the administration of the Poor Relief Act, and such other persons as we deemed to be in a position to afford us evidence bearing on the subject of our investigations.

We have also visited the different localities where we anticipated from the evidence submitted to us that local inquiry would further us in coming to a conclusion upon any of the several matters submitted to us for report.

The Poor Relief (Ireland) Act received the Royal Assent on the 10th of May, 1886. The Act was divided into two parts. Part I provided for the extension of out-door relief, temporarily, to poor persons by the Board of Guardians. Part II related to the constitution and duties of the Piers and Roads Commission.

Summary of
provisions of
Poor Relief
(Ireland)
Act, 1886.

To the second part of this Statute we are not called upon to refer, but with respect to Part I. we think it will be convenient, before dealing with the manner in which its provisions were fulfilled, to cite briefly the principal features of the enactments which it contained.

By the second section of the Act, the Local Government Board were empowered to authorise the Board of Guardians of any Union to administer out-door relief in food or fuel to poor persons under such conditions as they might see fit to prescribe.

The third section authorised the grants to be made, the total amount not exceeding twenty thousand pounds to any of the six Unions named in the Schedule to the Act, viz.:—Belmullet, Clifden, Galway, Oughterard, Swineford, Westport, "to aid in defraying the charge of any electoral division or divisions in the Union; having regard to the financial condition, and the pressure of distress within the limits of each electoral division or divisions."

By a sub-section of the same clause, the Lord Lieutenant was empowered to make special provision for the relief of the poor in any island within the Scheduled Unions in such manner as he might consider expedient. It was not, however, found necessary to put this sub-section into operation.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE POOR RELIEF ACT.

In consequence of representations which were made to the Local Government Board towards the end of April as to the prevalence of severe distress in the Scheduled Unions, the Board anticipated the passing of the Act by authorising the Guardians of Belmullet, Clifden, Oughterard, and Westport Unions, on the 20th of April, of Swineford Union on the 28th of the same month, and of Galway on the 5th May, to administer out-door relief in food or fuel to poor persons, subject to the following conditions:—

- I. That no able-bodied person who shall be in employment, should receive relief in food under the authority of their letter.
- II. That every able-bodied male person who shall receive relief in food under the authority of their letter should, so far as practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours of every day, for which he received such relief.

This letter was accompanied by a circular, Appendix B, calling the Guardians' attention to the necessity for exercising the extended powers with caution, and a due regard for the interests of the ratepayers as well as of the destitute poor. The circular further explained the principles upon which the labour test was imposed, and urged upon the Guardians the propriety of appointing a sufficient number of superintendents of labour or temporary Relieving Officers, and concluded by laying stress on the fact that grants would only be given to supplement the resources of a division, when it was ascertained that the expenditure could not be met by means of rates which might be collected in such division.

The formal Order of the Local Government Board followed on the 11th of May, and was accompanied by a letter, impressing on the Guardians that no person could "legally be relieved except by authority of the Guardians previously given in each case, or by the Relieving Officer, provisionally, in a case of sudden and urgent necessity," and reiterating the substance of the concluding paragraph of their circular of the 20th of April as to the only circumstances upon which the grants would be given in aid of any Electoral Division.

The Guardians on receiving the first intimation of the authority which had been granted to them to put the Act in force, adopted a practically uniform course of procedure in each of the Scheduled Unions.

In the first place arrangements were made for the supply of meal in the different localities by the appointment of contractors, either for each division, or for the Union generally, or, as in the case of Galway, by issuing open tickets payable at any shop where the holders might present them. The Local Guardians were in some instances the real though not the nominal contractors, a proceeding which in our opinion was extremely improper although not absolutely contrary to the letter of the law. The works to be carried out were then decided upon, and temporary Relieving Officers were appointed who in some Unions were subject to the supervision of the permanent officers, and in others were entrusted with complete and independent powers for their respective districts. Instructions were then given to the Relieving Officers to open the works which had been selected, and to employ provisionally such of the applicants for relief as they considered destitute.

Authorisation of Out-door relief by Local Government Board.

Instructional letter of Local Government Board. Appendix B.

Proceeding of Guardians.

Commencement of Relief Works.

Ev. 4185, et seq.

These instructions the Relieving Officers endeavoured to carry out, but as a matter of fact in several cases they found persons already employed who had been set to work by the directions either of the Guardian and the Roman Catholic Clergyman of the district, or even of the superintendents of the works, who were themselves recipients of relief. The evidence of some of the Relieving Officers was to the effect that so great was the rush of people to the works upon their commencement that it was a matter of difficulty, if not of absolute impossibility, to exercise proper discrimination or control.

Ev. 4066.
Ev. 6757.
Ev. 5509.

No. 914.
Ev. 3987.
Ev. 6820.

The relief thus afforded having been given provisionally, under Section 7 of 10 Vic., cap. 21, it became the duty of the Guardians at their following meeting to ascertain, from the Application and Report Books, the names of the persons so relieved, and to give directions in each case as to whether out-door relief was to be continued or to cease, and to determine the amount and duration of the relief in all cases where a continuation was ordered.

The Application and Report Books, we may here observe, are used for recording the names and particulars of the applicants for relief. A column is appropriated in the entry of any provisional relief which, in a case of sudden and urgent necessity, the Relieving Officer is legally empowered to give, pending the next meeting of the Guardians. Other columns in the books are set apart for the directions of the Board of Guardians upon each case, whether dealt with provisionally by the Relieving Officer or not. It is obvious, therefore, that a careful examination of those books is the first and most important duty of the Guardians in connexion with the administration of relief.

These Application and Report Books, however, were as a rule not written up by the Relieving Officers for some weeks after the works commenced, and thus absolutely no control was exercised by the Guardians over the management of the relief during that period. The books on being completed were submitted to the Guardians, who perused as many of them as the time at their disposal would allow. From the commencement to the end of the operation of the Act, however, the Guardians, save in a few exceptional cases, made no directions as to the continuance of the relief in the columns devoted to this purpose, but confined their action to occasionally placing their initials, opposite the record of the provisional relief which had been already afforded by the Relieving Officer, as an intimation that they approved of his action in the case. We can call to mind no instance where these books show that the opinion of the whole Board of Guardians was ascertained upon the individual cases, and their directions duly recorded, except in the Behnullet Union where in administration of the Act a greater desire was shown by the Guardians to fulfil the requirements of the law.

Boiling of
Books.
Ev. 2833.
Ev. 1513.

Furthermore, in some instances the books were not examined by the Guardians till the operations of the Act had ceased, and in other cases there is no record of their ever having been examined at all.

Ev. 4032,
8867, 6501,
8105, 9411.

It will be observed, therefore, that the Guardians practically surrendered the entire control of the relief to the Relieving Officers and their assistants. Many of these men were without previous experience of their duties, and as they were not fortified by any directions of their Boards in regard to the various applicants whose names were on their books, they proved unable to resist the great pressure brought to bear on them.

Ev. 8185,
6290, 6044.

The rule of the Local Government Board which requires the Relieving Officers to make strict inquiries into the condition and wants of the applicants for relief at their own homes was almost universally disregarded; and the Relieving Officers excused themselves for neglecting this duty by asserting either that their own general knowledge of the circumstances of the people enabled them to discriminate between real and simulated cases of distress, or that pressure of work did not admit of their making this preliminary inquiry.

Ev. 1611,
3723, 6540.

As a result of this omission and of the authority assumed by individual Guardians and others, the people were placed indiscriminately upon the works for the first few weeks, and no genuine effort was made by the Relieving Officers or Guardians to restrict the relief to those who were properly entitled to it.

The continuance of the provisional relief by the Relieving Officers after the cases were laid before the Guardians was, strictly speaking, quite illegal. The proper course for these officers to have pursued was to have stopped the relief when the Guardians declined to order its continuance, and thus have placed the responsibility of its cessation on the Guardians. It must be stated in their defence, however, that they were verbally instructed by the Guardians to follow the course they did, and they seemed to think that the subsequent initialing of their books by the Guardians was a sufficient justification of their conduct in the matter.

Illegality of
Relief.

It will be seen that by taking this course the Guardians transferred from themselves to their officers, the liability which they would otherwise in many instances have incurred, of being surcharged by the Auditor for excessive relief; and as the Relieving Officers were generally men of a very poor class the possibility of surcharging them to any considerable extent for the extravagant relief is of course out of the question.

We cannot, however, consider that as a rule the Relieving Officers discharged the duties thus thrown upon them creditably. A few of the permanent men undoubtedly did so, noticeably Mr. J. Nolan, of Belmullet, but the greater number of the assistants were culpably careless and irregular. We may quote the following examples.

Irregularity of Relieving Officers.
 Ir. 2061. In Oughterard Union Mr. Patrick Walsh furnished a return of persons relieved in the Turlough Electoral Division, which exceeded the gross population of the district, a circumstance which he was wholly unable to explain. Mr. James Macle put everyone on the list who applied to him, and gave relief to a man having four cows, whom he himself described as "not really destitute," and Mr. Patrick Kyne, admitted that anyone seeking the work got it. In Swinford Union Mr. J. B. O'Connor seems to have trusted altogether for information respecting persons whom he relieved to other recipients of relief acting as gangers; and Mr. Thomas Horkan upon one occasion stopped all relief to 1,470 persons for a week for no other reason than that the death of a relative occurred at the time. Finally, in Westport Union, Mr. Hugh Lavelle relieved 1,824 persons in the Slievemore Electoral Division out of a population of 1,947, and admitted that he gave relief to anybody who asked him, without making any inquiry whatever. In Slievemahana and Dromin Electoral Divisions of this Union the number of persons on the relief lists was occasionally in excess of the total population of the divisions.

Labour test.
 Ir. 408. If the labour test which was imposed had been an efficient one, the preliminary inquiries by the Relieving Officers might to a certain extent have been dispensed with. But the repairs of roads are not a test of destitution, or even of poverty. Such works are not of sufficiently unattractive a character to deter the whole population from seeking to participate in them, and we can fully endorse the remark of the Rev. Mr. Hewson, *r.t.*, of Belmullet, who assured us that every man in the district could be got to work on such a test.

Moreover, the works in themselves were not properly carried out; the gangers were ordinary paupers not inclined to press hard on their neighbours, and the workmen were confident that they would not be dismissed if they did not give a fair return of labour for the relief afforded, nor get higher wages if they showed unusual skill and zeal. They worked, therefore, lazily and badly. The works laid out were of a useful character, and much needed in these remote districts, but in many cases they were left in an unfinished state, and, even when completed, they seemed, as far as we could judge, not to have been executed in a permanent or satisfactory manner.

As it is clear therefore that the Relieving Officers exercised very little discrimination in the selection of the applicants for relief, and that the Guardians, on their part, did not seek to control these officers by careful weekly scrutiny of their relief lists, and as the labour exacted was not an efficient test of destitution, it is not to be wondered at that abuses of a very flagrant description were allowed to pass unchecked.

Abuses.
 It was obviously not to the advantage of any of the Guardians or ratepayers to tender evidence indicative of a misapplication of the relief funds, and we do not, therefore, pretend to assume that we were able to ascertain the full extent of the irregularity which occurred, but nevertheless the instances of abuse which came under our notice give a fair general idea of the maladministration of the Relief Act. Some of these abuses were of a very gross character, and we may quote some instances to show that we are justified in referring to them in terms of unqualified condemnation.

Ir. 312. In Belmullet Union relief was given to a man named Martin Conway, whose holding is valued at £10, and who had 13 head of cattle; to two men named Howard having a lot of sheep, who were stated to be "proud to get relief."

Ir. 7114-45. In the Clifden Union the administration of relief was similarly abused. Mr. Cornelius King, a Guardian of the Union, who appears to have made a stand against the extravagance of the Relieving Officers from the first, deposed to two publicans having received relief, as well as a man who to his own knowledge sold 13 bullocks at a fair. Among other recipients we may mention Connolly, a contractor to the workhouse; Gorham, a Constabulary pensioner, in receipt of £50 a year; P. Joyce, a man having 10 head of cattle and a horse and cart, himself and his son being in employment; J. Neo, constantly employed by the local Protestant clergyman; and Owen O'Donnell, a man holding 1,075 acres of land, who had recently paid £6 for county cess.

In the Oughterard Union, Owen King, of Roy, having 8 head of cattle and 70 sheep,

was afforded relief; Denis Keane, also with 9 head of cattle and 50 sheep; Martin Keane, with 28 head of cattle and 70 sheep; Michael Keane, with 18 head of cattle and 40 sheep; Tom Cane, with 14 head of cattle, 50 sheep, and a horse; Michael Coyne, with 12 head of cattle, 50 sheep, and a horse; Pat Joyce, with 15 head of cattle and 30 sheep—all these obtained relief together with many others equally well circumstanced, as will be seen from the evidence of Mr. James Coyne. Other witnesses, Mr. Peter King, John Joyce, and Tom King, deposed to similar cases of flagrant misapplication of the relief, and Mr. James Jackson, the agent of Lord Ardilaun, showed that relief had been given to a large number of men in the constant employment of his lordship.

In Westport Union relief was given to Pat Joyce, a "Gombeens" man, who lends money; to a man named O'Donnell having 10 head of cattle and 20 or 30 sheep; to a man receiving wages at the rate of £1 14s. a week from an Ex-officio Guardian of the Union; and to a cattle jobber having money in the Ulster Bank.

It was stated by the Guardians that the work of properly investigating the cases of relief would have monopolised more time than they could spare from their own affairs, and it is due to them to remark that they devoted a considerable part of each week to the Poor Law business. Nevertheless we think that had the time the Guardians devoted to their work been properly utilized it would have sufficed to enable them to instruct the Relieving Officers each week upon the cases to be relieved, and thus the abuses and extravagance so highly discreditable to the Guardians of the Unions in which they occurred might have been avoided.

The Guardians might possibly assert that they were not aware that such persons as those above referred to were relieved, but there is no justification whatever for their allowing themselves to remain in ignorance of these abuses, when they were responsible for the proper administration of the relief. Indeed, if there was no other evidence to show it, we think the fact that they had no hesitation in ordering the reduction and in some cases the complete cessation of the relief at the worst season of the year is a conclusive proof that they recognized that the amount then given was wholly excessive. Particulars of these reductions will be found in the Appendix to this Report (No. 1), but we may, perhaps, call attention to the following very remarkable instances:—

BRANTFORD UNION:

Week ended	5th June, 1886,	7,642 persons relieved.
"	12th " "	None.
"	19th " "	None.

CLONMEL UNION:

Week ended	5th June, 1886,	18,553 persons relieved.
"	12th " "	3,553 "
"	19th " "	15,253 "

GALWAY UNION:

Week ended	5th June, 1886,	6,773 persons relieved.
"	12th " "	73 " "
"	19th " "	63 " "

OGHERBURN UNION:

Week ended	22nd May, 1886,	16,162 persons relieved.
"	29th " "	12,535 " "
"	5th June, " "	10,662 " "

SWINFORD UNION:

Week ended	22nd May, 1886,	25,451 persons relieved.
"	29th " "	15,448 " "
"	5th June, " "	17,303 " "
"	12th " "	20,360 " "

WESTPORT UNION:

Week ended	22nd May, 1886,	18,593 persons relieved.
"	29th " "	16,539 " "
"	5th June, " "	7,882 " "

The above reductions, it must be remembered, were made without any reference to the merits of each particular case.

It is true that in all cases where the relief was stopped, or largely reduced, the Relieving Officers were directed to assist all really destitute people, but from the returns which we print in the Appendix (No. 3) it will be seen that it was not found necessary to relieve any largely increased number, either in the workhouse or provisionally by the Relieving Officers, in consequence of the stoppage of the works. Evidence was

Ev. 850. given in some Unions as to the distribution of charitable funds from private sources at the time, but in no case was the amount so great as to be an adequate substitute for the relief previously afforded by the Guardians.

Ev. 864, 4015, 9721. The principal reason assigned in nearly all the Unions for these wholesale reductions in the relief, was that the Guardians were apprehensive that the Electoral Divisions would have to bear a portion of the cost incurred. There is no doubt that the possibility of this was at that time forcibly impressed upon them by the Local Government Board in a letter in which they adverted to the lax and unsatisfactory manner in which relief was reported to have been distributed; and they were warned for the third time, that any undue extravagance could only lead to increased taxation of the Divisions where proper vigilance was not observed. The inference to be deduced from this is that the Guardians did not consider it necessary to check the excessive relief so long as they anticipated that the cost would be borne, not by the ratepayers of the Union, but by the public funds. The total number of persons relieved weekly in each Electoral Division of the scheduled Unions will be found with Appendix (No. 1).

Appendix B. It is only fair to state that the Guardians, in carrying out the Poor Relief Act, laboured under some disadvantages. First of all, there can be no doubt that a Board of Guardians is an unsuitable body for carrying out public works. Its size and varying composition, added to the fact that several days elapse between the meetings, make it an inefficient instrument for such a purpose. Promptness, decision, sustained energy, and familiarity with the work in hand can only be obtained by a small body constantly in session and without any other duties.

Then again, the elected Guardians received very little assistance during the time of the relief from the ex-officio members, who from their longer experience in the management, and their larger pecuniary interest in the finances of the Unions, might have been expected to act as a check on the lavish expenditure incurred. We cannot help thinking that those who absented themselves during this period are hardly justified in complaining of abuses which they knew of and should have endeavoured to prevent. The fact of their being in a minority on most of these Boards affords no excuse for their non-attendance. A minority can only free itself from the responsibility of mal-administration by constantly pointing out to the majority the evils of the policy pursued.

Moreover, the power of giving out-door relief to the able-bodied, subject to a labour test, had never before been entrusted to these Boards. It is natural to expect many mistakes in performing these novel duties, especially as the authorization of exceptional out-door relief took place so late in the spring as not to leave the Guardians sufficient time for careful preliminary preparations.

It would also have been of great assistance to the Guardians if two additional Local Government Inspectors had been appointed instead of one; and if they had entered on their duties before the relief works commenced. It would thus have been possible for a person fully qualified to advise the Guardians to have attended every meeting of each Board, and given detailed instructions on any point of difficulty that might have arisen.

The total expenditure under the Poor Relief Act and the grant made to each of the scheduled Unions was as follows:—

Union.	Expenditure			Grant.			Excess of Expenditure over Grant.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bahmullet, - - -	2,881	9	7	2,481	0	0	400	9	7
Chelms, - - -	7,496	5	2	4,442	0	0	3,054	5	2
Galway, - - -	1,363	9	0	892	0	0	461	9	0
Oughmard, - - -	7,081	15	2	4,017	0	0	3,064	15	2
Swineford, - - -	7,480	2	10	3,521	0	0	4,159	2	10
Westport, - - -	9,286	4	0	4,737	0	0	5,139	4	0
Total, - - -	34,499	5	9	20,060	0	0	14,499	5	9

In the Appendix (No. 2) will be found the same particulars with regard to each Electoral Division of the above Unions.

PRESENT FINANCIAL STATE OF SCHEDULED UNIONS.

We print in the Appendix (No. 3) a table, giving details of the liabilities and requirements of each Union up to the 29th September, 1887, together with a statement

of the amount which will be unprovided for after the collection of the Rate which the Guardians have agreed upon.

The following is a summary of the result :—

Electoral Divisions.	Total liabilities.	Rates will produce.	Unprovided for.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	£	£	£
Bethnalbet, - -	4,798	2,076	2,722
Chiffen, - -	8,907	3,511	5,396
Galway, - -	8,830	7,158	1,672
Oughtonard, - -	6,873	3,204	3,669
Swinsford, - -	21,264	5,698	15,566
Westport, - -	3,223	4,462	5,163
Total, - -	60,823	26,109	34,713

We are undoubtedly of opinion that the full rates which would be necessary to meet the total expenditure incurred could not be levied at present without great hardship to all classes of ratepayers, and we consider that the Guardians have levied the maximum rate which it would be practicable and expedient to collect this year.

It might not be considered advisable to apply a Government grant to the payment of debts incurred through mal-administration; but if, on account of the impoverished condition of the Unions, a loan could be obtained to meet this liability, the repayment to be spread over a number of years to be hereafter determined, the difficulties of the Unions might be met without undue pressure on the ratepayers.

COLLECTION OF RATES.

The amount of rates collected and outstanding in each Electoral Division of the Scheduled Unions appears in the Appendix (No 6), and may be summarized thus :—

Unions.	Rate collected on 22d Sept., 1888.			Rate outstanding on 22d Sept., 1888.			Rates outstanding at date of Report.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bethnalbet, - -	1,405	16	3	1,337	3	9	934	10	7
Chiffen, - -	2,682	10	1	1,324	10	10	978	16	11
Galway, - -	6,269	3	3	584	8	6	595	2	11
Oughtonard, - -	2,308	1	3	385	4	0	672	12	7
Swinsford, - -	2,725	8	7	3,784	3	8	1,827	12	3
Westport, - -	8,848	19	0	1,087	8	8	594	7	9

The rates and arrears were due by the landlords as immediate lessors, and by the rated occupiers in the following proportions :—

Unions.	Percentage of total Rate payable by		Percentage of Arrears due by	
	Immediate Lessors.	Rated Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.	Rated Occupiers.
Bethnalbet, - -	35.6	64.4	63	37
Chiffen, - -	27.2	72.8	54	46
Galway, - -	9.	91.	8	92
Oughtonard, - -	28.	72.	40	60
Swinsford, - -	36.2	63.8	51	49
Westport, - -	23.4	76.6	73	27

The cause of this arrear in the case of the landlords of these Unions is well known. Their estates are much encumbered, and in a large number of cases are in the hands of a Receiver under the Court, who is often unable to get sufficient money to pay the tithe and quit-rent, and drainage rates, as well as the mortgages and family charges affecting the estate. This is owing to the reduction of rents by the operation of the Act of 1881, amounting to 19.7 per cent. in Mayo, and to 21.4 per cent. in Galway, as well as to the fall in value of grass farms, and to the partial or total non-payment of rents by small tenants. It was considered a hardship to proceed against them for rates on property the rent of which they have not received.

Causes of non-collection.
Embarrassment of Landlords.
EN. 532.

* This column includes balance of Seed Loan due to Board of Works. The uncollected Seed Rate which appears as an asset against this loan, is practically irrecoverable; see page xiii.

Poverty of
occupiers.

The rated occupiers in most of these districts are also in extremely poor circumstances and find it hard to meet their other engagements and pay rates.

In some Divisions along the west coast the lands are of an extremely poor description, and the valuation per head of population is in many cases less than 10s. the proportion for the whole of Ireland being £3 13s. 7d., and for Connaught £1 13s. 3d. These are commonly known as the "congested districts," where at all times the pressure of population on the means of subsistence is very great. The holdings are very small. The people are dependent for their support on the potato crop grown on small patches of reclaimed bog or worn-out mountain land, on the sale of an inferior description of cattle, on fishing, kelp-burning, in some cases the sale of seaweed, and lastly on their earnings from harvest work in England. Of late years most of these means of support have diminished. There was a decided failure of the potato crop in certain districts this spring. Mountain cattle were quite unsaleable till late in summer, and even then realized a much lower price than a few years ago. The fishing does not seem in some parts to be as productive as it once was; kelp has fallen of late years nearly 50 per cent. in value; and many artificial products are competing with seaweed as manure. Finally, the agricultural depression in England has greatly affected both the amount and value of employment given to migratory labourers. The effect of these causes for many succeeding years has been an ever-increasing impoverishment of the population. The small farmer finds it impossible to maintain his family during the spring months without getting provisions on credit from the local shopkeeper, and when in autumn he endeavours to pay off this debt, he is unable, owing to the causes above-mentioned, to do so in full. Thus every year his indebtedness increases, and is accentuated by the high interest usually charged by those who risk their advances on such doubtful security. Moreover, the standard of living has, even in the remotest parts of Ireland, greatly risen of late years, while the resources of the districts we are referring to have considerably diminished. On the other hand, large reductions of rent have been made under the Land Act of 1881, which, no doubt, have tended to improve the position of the small occupiers, but owing to the holdings being generally of insufficient size to support a family in comfort, the difficulty experienced in meeting the heavy Poor Rate except in the most prosperous years, is very great.

Increase of
population.

In this connexion we would lay stress on the remarkable fact that while the population of Ireland has fallen from 8,175,124 to 5,174,836 since 1841, the very opposite tendency manifests itself in the poorer districts of the West. It will be seen by the instructive table in the Appendix (No. 11) that the population of the Dispensary District of Lettermore, in the Oughterard Union, has risen from 8,712 in 1841 to 9,095 in 1881; and of Lowpark in Swineford from 10,718 in 1841 to 11,903 in 1881. There is at the same time no evidence of any new industry having arisen in those districts which would suffice to maintain in comfort this large population.

The Poor Rate may not appear to be a very large amount in itself, but as these people live to a great extent on the produce of their holdings, and not by wages, any cash payment is difficult for them.

Tenants
"in Co."

It might be supposed that in these congested districts the majority of occupiers are rated under £4, and are not liable, therefore, for the payment of Poor Rates. It was stated in evidence, however, that a custom prevails in some of these Western Unions of joining together a certain number of small occupiers, valued severally under £4, as tenants "in Co." on the rent roll. Thus, although they occupy distinct holdings, the aggregate value of the "Co." tenancy is raised to above £4, and the landlord is able to evade his liability for the entire of the Poor Rate which he would have to pay if the ratings were separate. We found other cases, noticeably on the property of Lord Sligo, where no reduction in respect of Poor Rates was allowed in the rent to tenants above £4, and where the tenants valued below that amount were also obliged to pay all rates. This arrangement appears to be opposed to the principle of the Act of Parliament; and although it is a fact that in some cases the rent has been reduced by the Land Commissioners in consequence, still, as rates have a tendency to rise in these years of depression, it is likely that the tenant whose rent was reduced some years ago will bear an undue share of public taxation.

Delay in
raising
rates.

Apart from the poverty of the ratepayers, there are other cases which tend to impede collection of rates. The Guardians show in some cases a great want of judgment in striking a rate long after the commencement of their financial year. In Belmullet it was struck in March for the year commencing from the previous September, and in Swineford it was as late as the month of April. It is well known that spring is the worst time for obtaining money from poor ratepayers, while in autumn they have the price of their corn crop and their stock to meet their liabilities. We are of opinion that in all cases the Clerk's estimate should be considered before the 29th of September, when

the Guardians' financial year begins, and the rate struck as soon as possible afterwards. There seems also to be in some cases a good deal of unnecessary delay on the part of the Guardians in instituting proceedings for the recovery of rates.

Some of the Collectors discharged their duties in a very perfunctory manner. Mr. M'Andrew, in Behnullet, seems to have been content with very poor excuses for postponing the payment of the rate, much of which was due by well circumstanced people. No doubt there are difficulties in making seizures from a defaulting ratepayer. The Collector finds the stock driven off the lands before his arrival, and the corn crop removed as soon as it is out. In many cases the head of the family is in England, and there is really no stock in the possession of the occupier. But the fact that other Collectors with similar districts, e.g., Mr. P. O'Malley, made a good collection proves that personal inefficiency was mainly accountable for the bad state of M'Andrew's collection. In the Lettermore District of Oughterard Union the collection during the past few years has been very unsatisfactory; the rates on the small occupiers have been allowed to accumulate to an almost crushing extent.

The case of Inishboffin Island demands special attention. It appears that for about six or seven years very little rate has been paid by the rated occupiers. The arrears now amount to £248 10s., being in some cases nearly three times the annual value of the holding. There has been, no doubt, a good deal of poverty at intervals on the Islands, but not more than in several districts on the mainland, where rates have been regularly paid. The arrears are, in our opinion, due more to difficulties in the way of enforcing the law than to the poverty of the ratepayers. The Collector stated, and we are disposed to agree with him, that it was impossible to get boatmen to bring him to the island on rate-collecting business; that if he should get there he had not sufficient local knowledge to distinguish the holdings of the persons liable, and that if he made a seizure there were no means of removing his stock to the mainland for the purposes of sale. After visiting the island and inquiring into these statements, we have come to the conclusion that there is little possibility of rates being paid there unless greater facilities are given by the Government authorities to the Collector.

We would suggest that the Rate Collector be authorized to use the Coastguard boats for the purpose of going to Inishboffin, for the collection of rates. We would also advise that the Royal Irish Constabulary be allowed to point out to him the boundaries of the holdings of the ratepayers. We are aware that these are somewhat novel duties for members of the Coastguard and Royal Irish Constabulary to perform, but we would observe that the case is exceptional. The Islanders have evaded payment of County Cess and Poor Rates for years, while they are afforded more benefit from the Poor Law system than their contributions would justly entitle them to, out-door relief being given largely in the island, and there being a resident Medical Officer as well as a Relieving and Sanitary Sub-Officer. And as the Coastguard and Royal Irish Constabulary are employed in checking smuggling and illicit distillation, and so aiding in collecting one branch of the Revenue, it does not appear unreasonable to suggest that they should assist in collecting another equally important public tax. Any objections which there may be to employing these bodies in the direct recovery of private debts do not hold good, we submit, as regards public rates. We are convinced, moreover, that a few expeditions of the kind would be enough. If the Islanders found out that they could be forced to pay their debts to the community they would not again be likely to adopt their present attitude of resistance.

But even if this suggestion was acted upon it would be impossible to collect at once the full amount due, owing to the accumulation of arrears to which we have referred. It would, therefore, be necessary to extend the repayment of the arrears over a very lengthened period, as the amount which can be added to the high average rate, 3s. 8d., required for this Division must be extremely small.

Out of a total of £54,995 of Seed Rate levied in the scheduled Unions, £9,940 remains outstanding. The greater part of this will, ultimately, have to be charged against the Poor Rates of the Electoral Divisions, as it is practically irrecoverable from the persons who are debited with it in the books. This is due partly to the fact that errors were made in the distribution, and the names of persons who never existed or had no land were entered as having received seed; partly to the difficulty of proving delivery of seed, now that some of the officials who were engaged in the distribution are dead or absent, and partly to so much being due by small occupiers not liable to pay Poor Rates.

When we consider the poverty of the people, the extravagance of the distribution in some Unions, and the high price which had to be paid for the seed owing to the Act having been passed so late in the year, we must come to the conclusion that the Seed Rate has been on the whole satisfactorily collected.

Effects to
recover
arrears.

Ev. 673,
685.

Ev. 9230.

Notes on
Inishboffin
Island.

Ev. 7758-
63.

Suggestions
as to re-
covery of
arrears.

Seed-rate.

ORDINARY ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL PROSPECTS OF SCHEDULED UNIONS.

We have made as careful inquiries into the administration of the Unions in ordinary years as the time at our disposal would permit, and we are of opinion that, except in the case of Swineford Union, where out-door relief appears to be very largely on the increase, there are no heads of expenditure under which it would be practicable to effect an appreciable reduction without impairing the efficiency of the Poor Law administration.

The out-door relief in the other five Unions does not strike us as excessive, having regard to the poverty of the people, and the remoteness of the workhouse and hospital from some of the populous outlying Electoral Divisions.

In Swineford Union no out-door relief was given up to the year 1867, but since that date, it has steadily and progressively increased and has now reached as much as £800 a year. This may to some extent be due to a less strict application of the workhouse test by the Guardians, but there is no doubt that it is also attributable to increased poverty among the people, principally owing to reduced earnings in the English labour market, on which the poorer classes of this Union are so largely dependent. The fact that the indoor relief has increased during the same period nearly 100 per cent. strengthens us in our opinion that the Guardians have now to deal with more widespread poverty than they had twenty years ago.

The difficulties of the poorer Unions have been brought to a crisis by the heavy permanent charges which have been imposed on the rates by successive Acts of Parliament, such as Vaccination Amendment Act, Registration Act, Public Health, Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and many others; and we may illustrate the effect of these Acts by citing the case of Swineford Union where the additional expenditure under those heads was estimated by the Clerk at £1,275, or twenty-three per cent. of the total.

We think that at the time the boundaries of these Unions were defined, it was never contemplated that any charges other than legitimate Poor Law expenses would have to be borne by Unions with such small valuations, and although, no doubt, the rates can be collected in ordinary years, they must always be more or less oppressive in the poor Electoral Divisions.

AMALGAMATION.

From the Belmullet Union urgent representations were made to us by the Guardians and Ratepayers, as to the desirability of amalgamating the Union with the adjoining Unions of Ballina and Killa, and reverting as nearly as possible to the original formation of the Union.

The reasons upon which this proposal was put forward were that having regard to the many additional charges which were placed on the rates since the constitution of the Union in 1849, the rateable area of the Union was too small to admit of the expense of maintaining a separate establishment without overburdening the ratepayers.

It is desirable that we should preface our remarks on this subject by explaining the circumstances upon which the formation of the Union was first deemed to be necessary. The present Belmullet Union originally formed part of Ballina Union which had been constituted on the first introduction of the Poor Law into Ireland. In 1849, however, on the recommendation of the Boundary Commissioners, Belmullet Killa, and part of Dromore West Unions were detached from Ballina and formed into separate unions. The Commissioners in so doing appear to have acted under a conviction of the superior advantages of small over large unions. They considered that the establishment of smaller unions would promote economy and efficiency in the administration of the Poor Law, and would facilitate the granting of relief to the destitute poor. The introduction of out-door relief by the Act of 1847 and its great extension owing to the pressure of distress confirmed them in the opinion that a closer and more vigilant supervision of relief than had heretofore existed was necessary; and they believed that in a small union the workhouse test would be more effectually applied, and a more rigid local and personal scrutiny would be used on the part of the guardians. In addition to this, the inadequacy of the accommodation afforded by the workhouses during the famine years led to the belief that some additional workhouse space would be permanently necessary to enable the Poor Laws to meet a strain during any time of exceptional pressure.

These were the general principles upon which the Boundary Commissioners acted; but it is hardly necessary for us to point out that the circumstances of the country have undergone a very marked change since they saw the necessity for the additional unions in Mayo. The population of Belmullet Union has fallen from 23,023 in 1841 to

Ordinary
out-door
relief in
Swineford
Union.

Ev. 1891.

Additional
charges on
Unions.

Ev. 1890.

Proposed
amalgamation
of
Belmullet.

Reasons for
formation of
Union.

Altered
circumstances
of the country.

16,451 in 1881; the population of Ballina Union, during the same period, from 54,277 to 30,720; and that of Killa Union from 25,813 to 10,136. The average number of inmates of workhouses in 1851 was 1,138, and in 1855, when the pressure of famine was over, was 87, while in 1885 it was only 82, and for the last twenty years the average daily number of inmates has been 115.

The necessity for increased workhouse accommodation, therefore, no longer exists; and it is possible that had the Boundary Commissioners been able to foresee the heavy charge which the separate establishment at Belmullet would ultimately entail, and the many other expenses which would be assessed over the union area, they would have hesitated to recommend it.

A glance also at the financial history of the Union will show that from the Belmullet Guardians' standpoint, there are forcible arguments in support of the alteration of the boundaries of the Union.

Financial
history of
Union.

For some years after its formation, and during the time the administration was confined to the relief of the poor, the average rate over the Union was not excessive (Appendix No. 12). Since that time, however, there has been a gradual increase in the expenditure. The various Acts of Parliament enumerated in page xiv. of our Report have thrown heavy burdens on the rates. The establishment expenses have increased, as the officers can command higher salaries and have more laborious duties to perform; the cost of in-door relief has risen, and the poverty of recent years has led to the extension of out-door relief.

From this combination of circumstances, the rates in the year 1875-6 began to press very heavily on the people, and the Guardians were led to reduce their estimate in the hope of carrying on the Union at a lower cost. It was found that the economies effected were not sufficiently large to substantially relieve the rates, and in September, 1877, an average rate of 5s. 6d. in the pound was shown to be necessary to meet the debts and expenditure for the next twelve months. A rate of such dimensions the Guardians considered could not then be collected, and a slightly reduced estimate was adopted, and again a debt was carried forward to the next year. The following year, notwithstanding the high rates which had been struck, the Guardians were not able to discharge any portion of the liabilities of preceding years, and the distress which prevailed in 1880 led to a largely increased demand for relief and completed the embarrassments of the Union. The Guardians then apparently abandoned all hope of collecting the rates, the Union was left without funds, the contractors were clamouring for payment and threatening to stop supplies, and the workhouse was practically in ruins for want of repair.

Upon this the Local Government Board superseded the Guardians and appointed paid officers to administer the affairs of the Union.

During the poverty and depression of the few years which followed, the resources of the Union proved quite inadequate to meet its requirements, and between the years 1880-3, the rates were supplemented by Government aid to the extent of over £12,000.

Notwithstanding that the Union was established in a satisfactory financial position by these grants, we now find, after an interval of two years, that the Union is again in debt to the extent of £1,014, exclusive of the loans to be repaid to the Board of Works under the Public Health and Seed Supply Acts.

Present
position and
prospects of
the Union.

The position of this Union is this,—to meet its ordinary requirements an average rate of over 4s. in the pound is necessary, and there is little doubt that such a rate presses heavily on the ratepayers of such an impoverished district as this. If, however, bad seasons should occur and cause a scarcity of money and an unusual demand for relief, the necessary rate could not be levied without inflicting undue hardship on the ratepayers of all classes.

It is clear, therefore, that this Union cannot be regarded as self-supporting, inasmuch as the machinery of the Poor Law is liable to break down when confronted with any emergency.

The remedies suggested for this state of things are—either that periodical grants should be made by Government to the Union; or that assistance should be given from time to time by means of a rate in aid levied over the whole of Ireland; or that the Union should be amalgamated in the manner proposed.

Remedies
suggested.

Experience has shown that Government grants are apt to lead to extravagance in administration, as the guardians consider that their claim for Government assistance becomes established whenever the expenditure passes a certain limit.

Govern-
ment grants

A rate in aid levied from other unions involves the objectionable principle of taxation without representation and is open to the same abuse though in a lesser degree as the system of State aid.

Rate in aid.

Amalgamation.

The alternative of amalgamation alone remains to be considered.

We propose to treat the question from two points of view, as it affects (I.) the administration of the union, and (II.) its financial position.

Effect of the proposal on the Poor Law administration.

I. The arguments which present themselves against undoing the work of the Boundary Commissioners are—

(a.) That the sick poor might suffer additional hardship and inconvenience from the increased distance to be travelled to reach the workhouse.

(b.) That out-door relief would be extended.

(c.) That the attendance of the resident local guardians and relieving officers at the meetings of the Board in Ballina would be irregular, and that the interests of the union would be less carefully looked after in consequence.

None of these objections apply to the proposed Scheme of amalgamation so far as it affects Killala Union. The workhouse at Killala is only six miles from Ballina and there is no part of the union so remote from Ballina as to admit of any question of hardship to the sick or destitute poor. We are unable to see any obstacles or difficulties in the way of carrying out this part of the project from any point of view.

The case of Belmullet, however, is widely different. The workhouse at Ballina is thirty-two miles from Belmullet; and there is no doubt that if the rateable value of the union was sufficient for the purposes of administration, the question of amalgamation should not be entertained. It is therefore for us to consider how far these objections which we have cited can be overcome, and whether the advantages to be gained by amalgamation would be sufficient to counterbalance any disadvantages which might result.

(a.) The difficulty of the increased distance to be travelled by the sick might be met, except in extremely bad cases, by providing comfortable ambulances for their removal, and by affording out-door relief to the patients who could not undertake the long journey. The present fever hospital at Belmullet might, if necessary, be utilized as an intercepting hospital for accidents pending their removal to the parent house.

(b.) The second objection presents the most formidable obstacle to the proposal. There is no doubt that the removal of the workhouse to Ballina would prevent the workhouse test from being applied as strictly as heretofore, and as a natural result some extension of out-door relief would have to be anticipated. The relieving officers, for instance, would be obliged to give some small amount of provisional relief to destitute persons, to enable them to make their way into Ballina, as otherwise the offer of admission to a workhouse forty miles off would seem an impossible mode of relief. On the other hand the increase in the out-door relief to the sick, who could not be removed to the workhouse, would in some degree be balanced by the consequent reduction in the cost of in-maintenance.

(c.) We do not attach much importance to the objection on account of the non-attendance on the part of the guardians at Ballina.

Ballina is the railway terminus and business centre of the district, and has more to attract the rural guardians than Belmullet; and by arranging for the transaction of their business on board days, the Belmullet guardians would be able to spare as much time for their Poor Law duties as they do at present. Again, it would be quite possible to elect residents of Ballina who have interests in the Belmullet Union to represent the Belmullet divisions.

Financial result of amalgamation.

II. The financial position and prospects of the Belmullet Union we have already explained; and we may summarize the effect of the proposed amalgamation by stating that we estimate the saving to Belmullet Union to be about 1s. 2½d. in the pound, to Killala, 1d. in the pound, and to Ballina, 1d. in the pound. Full particulars as to the manner in which this probable saving would be obtained will be found in the appendix.

Appendix (No 13)

The result which we have calculated is of course only an approximate one; but we may mention that in the case of the Newport Union, which was recently amalgamated with Westport, the saving which was estimated on the same basis by the Inspector who reported on the proposal has proved to be very considerably under the mark.

In the event of it being hereafter found necessary to establish an intercepting hospital at Belmullet the saving to the Belmullet Divisions would be reduced by about 2½d. in the pound.

The saving to the Belmullet and Killala Unions would be still farther reduced by any compensation that might be allowed to the officers on abolition of office. We have been unable to include this in our calculations, as its rests entirely with the Guardians to determine whether any allowance will be given, and if so to what amount. But in the event of the sum being fixed according to the Civil Service scale the cost, when assessed over the area of the old Union, would be about 1½d. in the pound in Belmullet and 1d. in Killala.

The Guardians of the Belmullet Union were practically unanimous in their desire for amalgamation, and we believe that this feeling is shared by the ratepayers throughout the union.

The Killala and Ballina Guardians, on the other hand, while anxious for the amalgamation of their respective unions, strongly object to being united with Belmullet, being influenced partly by fear of financial loss, and partly by the difficulty of managing satisfactorily so large and distant a district.

We have shown, however, that their fears on the subject of sustaining any loss are groundless, and that so far from the change being prejudicial to their interests, they would find their financial position improved.

With regard to their other objection, we think that they need not have any apprehensions on the subject. The Relieving Officers could attend fortnightly with their books, a practice which prevails in many western Unions. As the arrangements for the relief of the poor were workable from 1841 to 1847, when the population of the three unions was 101,613, there need be no fear of failure when the population is only 57,327, and pauperism has so much diminished.

In conclusion we are of opinion that if provision is made for extricating the Union from its present difficulties, the financial prospects of the Union would be sufficiently improved by amalgamation to justify it being carried out.

The inconvenience to the sick might be overcome in the manner we have already indicated; and by proper supervision on the part of the Belmullet Guardians any abnormal increase in the out-door relief could be checked. And as a want of vigilance in this respect, on the part of the Belmullet Guardians, would only tend to their own injury, they would have every incentive to proper diligence in the discharge of their duty. Furthermore, the administration of the Ballina Board of Guardians has always been more careful than that of the Belmullet Guardians, and from this fact we conceive that the affairs of the Belmullet District will be worked on a better and more business-like system than they have hitherto been.

We think, however, that in the event of amalgamation being decided upon by the Local Government Board, the number of Guardians returned from the Belmullet District to the Ballina Board should be considerably reduced.

The Ballina Union, with a valuation of £49,545 and a population of 30,720, is represented by twenty-one elected and twenty-one *ex-officio* Guardians.

The Belmullet Union, with a valuation of £10,894, and a population of 16,451, is represented by eighteen elected and seven *ex-officio* Guardians.

To prevent an undue proportion of representatives being returned from Belmullet Union to the Ballina Board, we consider that there should be six elected and six *ex-officio* returned from this district.

We also think that it would be equitable to diminish the number of Electoral Divisions of the Belmullet Union in order to prevent the provisions of the Poor Law Rating Act from operating to the disadvantage of Ballina, and we consider that three Electoral Divisions would be sufficient for the Union, and these might be made continuous with the present Dispensary Districts.

In the Killala Union no change in the number of Electoral Divisions would appear to be essential, but we are of opinion that the number of elected Guardians might be reduced from thirteen to nine.

BOUNDARIES OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.

The Electoral Divisions were intended by the framers of the original Poor Law Act to be merely wards for the purposes of the election of guardians. An amendment, however, was carried in the House of Lords, making them the areas for rating. Their boundaries were subsequently laid out by the Assistant Commissioners, who formed the Irish Unions in 1838. The main principles observed by the Commissioners were, that the Electoral Divisions should be, as far as possible, of about the same size, each returning one guardian; and that the boundaries of individual properties should, where possible, be followed.

In 1848, it was thought desirable to increase the number of Unions and Electoral Divisions, and the Boundary Commission was appointed for the purpose of effecting that change. The instructions issued for their guidance by Sir G. Grey, who was then Secretary of State, laid down:

1. That the size of the new Electoral Division should be such as to enable the inhabitants to feel a community of interest; and
2. That the proportion between their valuation and population should bear as fair a ratio as possible to that of the adjoining Divisions.

Opinions of
Killala and
Ballina
Guardians
upon the
proposed.

Conclusions.

We have no doubt that these instructions were fairly carried out. But owing to changes in the circumstances of the country, it would appear that the Electoral Divisions do not, as at present constituted, fulfil these requirements.

One of the chief motives actuating the Boundary Commissioners seems to have been a desire to make the Divisions of such a size as would enable the influence of a resident proprietor to be felt. We need hardly point out that, in the altered circumstances of the country, the proprietors are not likely to be able to perform any of those duties as to the improvement of the country, which were then expected of them.

The proportion, too, between valuation and population varies greatly in adjoining Electoral Divisions. We may take the following examples from the Clifden Union:—

				£	s.	d.
Derrylea E.D.	Valuation per head of population,	-	-	1	4	3
Clifden E.D.	"	"	"	-	0	16 3
Cushkillary E.D.	"	"	"	-	1	6 9
Renvyle E.D.	"	"	"	-	0	15 0½
Derryeanagh E.D.	"	"	"	-	2	16 7
Roundstone E.D.	"	"	"	-	0	14 2

This inequality between the Electoral Divisions is unfair to the poorer ones, as the burden of their pauperism is not shared by the neighbouring richer districts. It is obvious, also, that the large number of existing Electoral Divisions greatly increases the labour of the Union officials, and the consequent cost of Union expenditure.

It is worth remarking, moreover, that this result seems to have been foreseen by Sir G. Nicholls, who took so important a part in the introduction of the Poor Law into Ireland. In his *History of the Irish Poor Law*, published in 1856, he says (page 384):—

"The permission of out-door relief and the increase in the number of Unions, especially the latter, would, no doubt, render some increase in the number of Electoral Divisions necessary; but after the distress out of which these changes had arisen shall have passed away, and when the country has regained its normal state, it is not unlikely that these changes may be found 'barbarous, and the machinery they have created be beyond what is really necessary for affording relief to the destitute poor.'"

We therefore think that it would be both more in accordance with the principles on which the Poor Law was first established in this country and more just to the ratepayers of the Unions, to enlarge the size of the Electoral Divisions, so as to produce more equal rateable areas.

This would be most easily effected by taking the Dispensary District as the future area of rating. The result as regards Clifden Union, for example, would be that instead of having a variation as great as that between a valuation of 7s. 4d. per head of population in Illion Electoral Division, and 56s. 7d. in Derryeanagh Electoral Division, there would be a uniform valuation of 13s. 4½d. in Roundstone Dispensary District. Similarly, the valuation per head in Clifden Dispensary District would be 13s. 6d., while at present it ranges from 24s. 3d. to 8s. 5d. It may be observed that this would be an approximate return to the original arrangement of the Electoral Divisions of the Clifden Union when formed in 1840.

PROPOSED ALTERATION OF BOUNDARIES OF SWINEFORD UNION.

In the Swineford Union a very strong feeling was manifested by the guardians in favour of an extension of the boundaries of the Union, and it was suggested that the original boundaries, as laid down in 1841, would form a proper and convenient area of taxation under the present circumstances of the country.

This proposal would involve the dissolution of three adjoining Unions, and the enlargement of the area of the three Unions bordering on them; and as the consideration of a scheme of this magnitude would necessarily prolong the duration of the Commission for a considerable time, we did not feel justified in entertaining it without being expressly authorized to do so.

We, therefore, submitted the matter for the direction of your Excellency, and we were directed to omit this question from our report, leaving it to be dealt with afterwards if necessary.

We have the honour to be

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

G. T. REDINGTON.

H. A. ROBINSON.

2nd April, 1887.

**MEMORANDUM BY MR. REDINGTON WITH REGARD TO THE
AMALGAMATION OF OUGHTERARD UNION.**

The annexation of a portion of Oughterard Union to Clifden was proposed to us by a majority of the guardians of the latter Union as a means of relieving the ratepayers from the high taxation which the present size of the Union renders necessary. The Oughterard guardians, however, did not refer to this question at any length, as they said that they still adhered to the opinions expressed by them at the inquiry held there in 1835.

The report of the Local Government Inspectors on that occasion is printed in our appendix; and in the main conclusion arrived at by them, viz., that the dissolution of the Union is at present undesirable, I wish to express my concurrence.

Yet, as I cannot agree with all the reasons given for that decision, and as, also, the question may have to be reconsidered in the event of an extension of railway communication in Conesmarra, a few remarks and calculations on the subject may not be found out of place.

The evidence given at the previous inquiry proved conclusively that there was a strong feeling on the part of all the inhabitants of Clonhur, Cong, and Ross in favour of annexation to Ballinrobe Union, of which, up to 1849, they had formed part. The guardians of these Divisions who were examined, the parish priest, and medical officer stated that the distances of these Divisions from Oughterard prevented the regular attendance of guardians at the workhouse, and the removal of the sick poor to the hospital, and, moreover, caused an undue extension of outdoor relief. It was also shown that Ballinrobe is also the market town of the people of these Divisions, who have few business relations with Oughterard. It appears, further, that the annexation of these Divisions to Ballinrobe would be a considerable financial gain to them, amounting to about 4*d.* in the pound.

On the other hand, Oughterard, if deprived of these Divisions, would have only a valuation of £10,331 to support a population of 15,778. Its establishment expenses would be somewhat reduced, but not sufficiently so to prevent the rate for the Union-at-large expenditure from being increased by 4*d.* in the pound.

As the rates in Oughterard are already very high, such an increase would be extremely undesirable, and would be a conclusive argument against that form of amalgamation.

But there is another alternative—the Oughterard Union might be dissolved, and the Electoral Divisions distributed between the Unions of Ballinrobe, Clifden, and Galway. If this were done the natural distribution of the Electoral Divisions would be as follows:—

Division	Population.	Valuation.	Union.
Clonhur,	2,681	£ 3,098	} To Ballinrobe Union.
Cong,	1,912	1,243	
Carr,	516	451	
Ross,	334	437	
Total,	5,437	5,229	
Clonra,	518	242	} To Clifden Union.
Kilcomartin,	338	164	
Letterbrickewan,	722	723	
Letterfene,	548	709	
Turlough,	1,732	980	
Total,	3,846	2,811	
Crumpara,	2,473	940	} To Galway Union.
Garraha,	2,739	891	
Letterneen,	1,843	482	
Oughterard,	2,027	2,404	
Wormhole,	2,041	2,381	
Total,	11,423	6,968	

We will now consider the results of amalgamation thus carried out from the point of view (1) of administrative convenience, and (2) of financial gain.

(1.) The distance of the Workhouse from all parts of a Union ought no doubt to be such as to make it easily accessible to the sick and destitute poor, while it should be a convenient place of meeting for the Guardians and Relieving Officers.

Although the distances of the Electoral Division of the present Oughterard Union from the Workhouses of their new Unions would not be greater than is the case in many existing Unions; yet it would not be fair to entail on these Divisions any considerable additional inconvenience without a sufficient counterbalancing advantage.

It may be taken as approximately correct that the inhabitants of the following Electoral Divisions—Clonbur, Cong, and Ross, with a population of 4,927, would be benefited by the change; while Camus, Carr, Kileammin, Letterfore, Oughterard, Turlough, and Wormhole, with a population of 8,201, would suffer inconvenience. As regards the remainder of the Union, with a population of 7,377, no appreciable advantage or disadvantage would ensue. Letterbricknam is as near Clifden as it is to Oughterard, while all the business relations of the inhabitants of Crumpan, Gorumans, and Lettermore are with Galway.

On the other hand it is clear that in the case of Clonbur, Cong, and Ross the difficulty of communicating with Oughterard is far greater than it would be for Camus, Kileammin, Letterfore, and Turlough to communicate with Clifden, or Oughterard and Wormhole with Galway. There are no public conveyances between Clonbur and Oughterard, while several mail cars are constantly plying between Clifden and Galway. This would show that the benefits gained by the Divisions transferred to Ballinrobe Union would far outweigh the inconvenience sustained by those amalgamated with Clifden or Galway.

(2.) The financial results of amalgamation have been worked out in the Appendix (No. 14), from which it appears that the net gain would be as follows:—

In the case of the present Ballinrobe Union,	1d. in the £.
" " Clifden "	1d. "
" " Galway "	1d. "
" " Divisions annexed to Ballinrobe Union,	4d. "
" " " Clifden "	1d. "
" " " Galway "	1½d. "

No account has here been taken of the cost of compensation to the Union officials on the loss of their places, as that is a matter which lies almost entirely within the discretion of the Oughterard Board of Guardians. But if this were calculated at the strict Civil Service rate an additional sum of above £78, or 1½d. in the £, would be chargeable to the Divisions of the old Oughterard Union. This would convert the above-mentioned gain in the case of the Divisions annexed to Clifden, into a loss of ½d. in the £, and would neutralize altogether the gain as regards those added to Galway, while the advantage to the area added to Ballinrobe would be reduced to 2½d. in the £.

With reference to the overcrowding of Galway Workhouse in the event of amalgamation it is hard to express a definite opinion without careful measurements of the various wards in that house. But it appears by the Limitation Order of 1861, that Galway Workhouse could accommodate 1,038 paupers. A calculation has been made of the capacity of the house according to the principles laid down in the Report of the Poor Law Union Commission of 1876, and it seems to be capable of holding 696, while there was last year an average number of only 375 inmates; an addition therefore of an average number of forty paupers, which is about the proportion of paupers from Divisions added to Galway, would not make any appreciable difference.

It is true that certain wards may be overcrowded while the whole house is not; and according to the Report of 1885 such is the case with regard to the Female Infirmary wards in Galway Workhouse. But the number of female infirm paupers in Oughterard Workhouse at the time of our visit in December last, was only twenty-one, of whom about twelve would be the proportion to be sent to Galway. There cannot be such an insuperable difficulty in obtaining accommodation for them in Galway as to be a sufficient objection to amalgamation if otherwise desirable.

On the whole, therefore, it is clear that amalgamation would be a great advantage to the sick poor and the other residents in the Divisions added to Ballinrobe, while it would also afford them a certain amount of financial relief. On the other hand it would be no

financial gain, and a loss in other respects, to the majority of the other Divisions. It would not therefore seem that the change is at present desirable. But if a railway were made by Oughterard to Clifden, most of the objections on the score of the distance of that part of Oughterard Union from Galway and Clifden would be removed, and it would then be possible to carry out amalgamation to the great advantage of the people of Clonbur, Coag, and Ross, and without loss to the other districts of the Union.

C. T. REDINGTON.

MEMORANDUM BY MR. ROBINSON.

I feel unable to fully concur with the foregoing remarks of my colleague respecting the proposed amalgamation of Oughterard Union with the adjoining unions.

This Scheme of amalgamation has been decided against by the Local Government Board after an inquiry was held into the subject by Mr. W. L. Micks and myself, and nothing has transpired during the course of this Commission to alter my views as expressed in the report submitted by us to the Local Government Board at the time. (Appendix C.)

As Mr. Redington does not acquiesce in that part of the report which relates to the insufficiency of accommodation for certain classes in the Galway Workhouse, I wish to add that after having again visited the workhouse I still adhere to the opinion that the want of space for these classes presents a formidable obstacle to the proposed arrangement.

The vacant space in the Galway Workhouse consists of the dormitories allocated to the able-bodied inmates on the upper floors; and there is absolutely no room for increased numbers either in the hospital, the infirm wards, or the nurseries. The conclusion which Mr. Micks and I came to, after carefully considering the question and inspecting the different wards of the house, was that proper provision for the additional numbers could only be made by totally disregarding the classification of the house.

This view was concurred in by the Local Government Board, and by the Poor Law Union Inquiry Commissioners in 1879, who, in referring to the same proposal in their Report observe that "Owing to the distance of some Electoral Divisions from the workhouses of the adjoining unions and to the overcrowded state of the Workhouse of the Galway Union, the proposed dissolution would be impracticable."

It is true that on the day referred to in Mr. Redington's report, there were only twelve female infirm paupers in the Oughterard Workhouse from the five Divisions which would be annexed to Galway; but the number of inmates on one particular day is hardly a sound basis on which to estimate the pauperism which would have to be provided for from this district, as the numbers may vary considerably from time to time.

It must be borne in mind that in all workhouses a margin of accommodation should, if possible, be reserved in every department to meet emergencies; this is unfortunately hardly practicable in the several departments of the Galway Workhouse which I have alluded to, but it is a principle which has always been carried out in the Oughterard Workhouse to the advantage of the Poor Law administration in the Union. During the six years that I had charge of the Oughterard Union I have known the number of sick and infirm inmates to be temporarily increased to a considerable extent during severe weather, or the prevalence of sickness, or after evictions. If the Divisions proposed to be added to Galway had been a portion of that Union upon these occasions, the Local Government Board would have been obliged to choose between the alternatives of allowing the classification of the establishment to be entirely set aside, or authorizing out-door relief to be given under sec. 2 of the Poor Relief Extension Act.

I am not prepared to say that, in the event of the difficulties of distance being overcome by the construction of a railway, it might not be practicable to break up the Oughterard Union and add the whole of it to Clifden, with the exception of the Divisions of Cong, Clonbur, and Ross, which would be annexed to Ballinrobe.

Ample accommodation might be provided in Clifden Workhouse for all classes of inmates; and the Oughterard ratepayers would experience a greater improvement in the financial position of the Divisions to be added to Clifden than they would if the alternative proposal was carried out.

The principal advantage of this scheme would be, that the valuation of the Clifden Union would be increased from £16,000 to £26,000, and the administration could be carried on at a lower rate, to the relief of the overburdened taxpayers in this impoverished district.

H. A. ROBINSON.

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POOR RELIEF (IRELAND) INQUIRY COMMISSION.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 1886.

BERMULLETT UNION.

The Commissioners:—Mr. C. TALBOT REDINGTON (Chairman), and Mr. HENRY A. ROBINSON, L. G. I., opened the Inquiry at 11 o'clock, in the Board-room of the Belmullet Workhouse.

Mr. D. J. MacShenken, secretary, read the warrant.

The Chairman.—In accordance with the terms of the warrant, and for the convenience of those who will give evidence, we shall take up the inquiry under separate heads. We have determined to divide it into four different parts.—First, we will inquire into the administration of the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1856; next, into the present financial state of the Union; thirdly, into the ordinary administration and financial

state of the union; and fourthly, we will hear evidence on any suggestions that may be made as to changes in the existing boundaries of the union. It will be a convenience to us to deal with each subject separately and conclude the evidence referring to it before going into any other matter. But of course if any gentleman finds it inconvenient to wait we will take all his evidence at the same time.

Mr. E. N. Flynn (Clerk of the Union) examined.

1. The Chairman.—This is a return you furnished us with of the expenditures under the Poor Relief Act of 1856, will you please read out the figures referring to the expenditure in each Electoral Division, and state if the figures are correct?—(The clerk read Table II., which is in Appendix A.)

2. What is the net excess of expenditure over the grants?—£400 2s. 7d.

3. What is the valuation and the population of the union?—The valuation is £10,875, and the population 16,451.

4. Can you give me the dates within which the expenditures under the Poor Relief Act was incurred?—Between 24th of April and 28th of July.

5. Have you a return of the amount spent each week on out-door relief?—Yes, I have. The original return has been altered somewhat after the contractors' accounts were received—some of the relieving officers in some instances had not issued tickets for the full amount of food supplied; and in other instances—very few though—they issued tickets beyond the amount in the books. That accounts for the discrepancy between the weekly returns that I have before me and the returns first sent in.

6. All discrepancies have now been corrected?—Yes.

7. Have you week by week the numbers relieved under the Poor Relief Act?—I think you have the returns.

8. Is this return correct?—Yes, it is correct, but there was a variation in the three first instances which was afterwards made all right.

9. Give the correct number of cases and persons?—(The clerk read Table I., which is in Appendix A.)

10. Have you filled up returns showing the amount of ordinary out-door relief from the 1st of January to the end of September?—I have a return of persons and cases weekly in receipt of out-door relief from January to September. It is as follows:—(This return is included in Table III.)

11. Does the expenditure you have given us include the cost of the cases in receipt of relief under the ordinary Acts, at the date of the passing of the Poor Relief Act?—Except some cases that were transferred from the ordinary books to the other—to the Poor Relief books.

12. You cannot say how much?—No.

13. Mr. Robinson.—With regard to administration of the relief your knowledge, I presume, only extends to the proceedings in the Board room?—Yes.

14. The letter of the Local Government Board authorizing the relief was received in April—the 26th April, was it not?—I think so.

15. Assuming that in the current date, how soon after that date did the Guardians meet?—On the following Thursday.

16. What orders did they give on the receipt of that letter—were the orders by resolution?—The letter of instructions was received, and they communicated the contents of it to the relieving officers. I do not know if they started the relief works then. I do not think the Act was in force. The letter was, I believe, in anticipation of the Act.

17. I refer to the letter of the 26th April authorizing the relief to be given. I want to know if they waited for the sealed order of the Local Government Board?—The relieving officers, between the receipt of the letter and of the order, gave provisional relief.

18. Did the Guardians instruct them to exercise those provisional powers—was it under the 7th section?—Yes; under the old Act.

19. Then they did not, on the receipt of that letter, put in force the provisions of the Poor Relief Act?—No.

20. Are you sure?—Yes.

21. As soon as the sealed order from the Local Government Board was received, what instructions did the relieving officers receive?—They were instructed to send the cases before the Board and to receive applications. First, I should say that I think contractors were advertised for, for the supply of meal and depots. It was then arranged to give employment, and the relieving officers were instructed to bring in the cases before the Board. They were instructed to receive applications for relief.

22. The Guardians authorizing the works to be carried out?—Yes.

23. Was that at the first meeting after the sealed orders were received?—I think after the instructional letter of the 26th April the Guardians proposed certain works, and decided on them.

24. In each district?—Yes.

Mr. E. N. Flynn

RELATIVE.
Mr E. B.
Ryan.

25. They consulted the relieving officers?—Yes, in some instances, as to the work required.

26. What were the rules of procedure laid down by the Guardians as to the admission to these works?—In some cases the relieving officers, in anticipation of the Guardians' orders, took parties on themselves and rendered themselves liable to some extent to these regulations of relief, but they were ruled by the Board.

27. In the first instance then, parties were put on without the order of the Guardians?—Yes.

28. That was at the commencement?—Yes, just at the start, but afterwards they got instructions to put on no more without due inquiry and the order of the Board.

29. Then it was between the receipt of the Local Government Board's letter of the 30th April and the receipt of the sealed order that the relieving officers put them on the works?—Yes; I believe it might be confined to that.

30. Did the Guardians call on them to visit the houses of the applicants and make strict inquiries in the case of each applicant?—Not specifically; but told them they knew their business, and to go and do it.

31. As to the establishment of depots, how many were ordered by the Guardians?—I can't tell exactly, I think about seven or eight.

32. In different parts of the union?—Yes.

33. How many contractors were appointed?—Two, one for meal and one for flour.

34. Did these contractors start depots in each district?—I presume they did. I have no knowledge of it myself.

35. Was it not ordered by the Guardians by resolution?—The Guardians fixed the depots. I have no knowledge beyond that.

36. They were fixed, and you assume they were carried out?—Exactly.

37. The Guardians gave no instructions as to the method of procedure to be adopted by the relieving officers?—No, they fixed a scale of the amount of relief at the first meeting.

38. Did they order that the relief was to be ordered in money or kind?—In kind.

39. How many assistant relieving officers did they appoint?—One in each case.

40. Did they define the duties of these men?—They told them they were merely to act as assistants to the relieving officers, and assist generally.

41. To carry out the instructions of the relieving officers generally?—Yes.

42. After the first time they gave this relief provisionally without the authorisation of the Board of Guardians, from that time forth were all the persons put on the application and report book, and ruled by the Guardians before they were allowed to go on the works?—As far as I am aware. The relieving officers themselves could say.

43. In ruling the books did the Guardians fix the duration of the relief?—Yes, and amount.

44. What was generally the duration?—They were confined within the ordinary two weeks.

45. They fixed it to the period to which the order extended?—Yes, when they found great destitution, but they curtailed it in some cases.

46. The sending of relief involved some time?—There were three meetings a week, and sometimes four.

47. Did the rural Guardians attend?—There was a kind of understanding that the Guardians of the respective divisions should attend, but that was not always carried out.

48. Was any arrangement made by the Guardians as to the supervision of works?—Yes, and the supervisors were allowed an extra quantity of relief.

49. Were the supervisors appointed by resolution of the Guardians?—No, they were on the relieving officers' application and report book. They were destitute persons, more intelligent than the rest.

50. Are you aware whether these people had the entire charge of the relief and were supposed to certify in each case whether the men had done the necessary amount of work?—I suppose so.

51. You cannot say whether that duty was discharged exclusively by them?—I cannot say.

52. These were all the arrangements that were made by the Guardians in the boardroom?—I think so.

53. Chairman.—Could you give the exact date on which the Guardians ruled the relieving officers' books?—It would appear to be the 29th April, 1885.

54. In the account of the expenditure do you include the tools?—Yes.

55. What became of those?—They are here in the workhouse except some which the relieving officers do not account for. They have not yet been disposed of.

56. You have not been able to realise money by the sale of the tools?—No, they took no steps.

57. What was the total cost of the tools on your day?—

58. You say that contracts for meal and flour were given. What kind of proportion was there between meal and flour?—All the flour we wanted I think came to about £26 2s. 9d. or thereabouts.

James Castelfield, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Mr James
Castelfield.

59. Mr Robinson.—You are one of the Relieving Officers?—Yes.

60. For what district?—Knockslower.

61. What is the population of it?—In the part I am in there is 600 families. I could not swear to it but I heard a priest state it. My district is from Baggot to Glencullen Wood.

62. How long have you been Relieving Officer?—Going on fourteen years.

63. You have taken part in the administration of former Distress Acts?—Yes.

64. When you received instructions from the Guardians on the 29th of April to administer this Act—the Poor Relief Act of 1884, what was the course of proceeding you adopted; what did you do on receiving applications for relief?—I brought it before the Board.

65. Did you visit the person making the application?—Yes.

66. Did you visit every case?—No, nor one-sixth of them. They came that way, with a rush, that there would be six relieving officers wanted to do my work.

67. I presume you know the circumstances of a great many?—Yes.

68. And when you received the application you brought it before the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

69. If the Guardians authorised the relief, what did you do then?—I gave the relief.

70. I presume you gave the applicant work in the first instance?—Oh yes, I gave him employment.

71. Of what nature?—Roads and drains and that.

72. You brought the applicant's case before the Board. Then if they thought it a case for relief instructed him to go to work on the road?—Quite that—he went on the road.

73. Did you point out to him the road he was to go on?—Yes.

74. Who supervised the work as it proceeded?—There were several gangmen with me.

75. Did you receive from these gangmen an account of how much work had been done by each man each day?—I received the names of the parties that worked with them.

76. Do you mean you received a report of the duration of each man's work?—Yes.

77. In all those cases did you give the man a ticket of admission to the works?—No, but instructions.

78. You don't understand. Tell me what means

had you of knowing that every one who liked did not go to the gangman and tell him that they had an order to work?—Well, it was nearly impossible to say for certain.

72. Did you give any written order to the applicant to show to the supervisor?—No, I did not.

80. You told him verbally who you wished put on?—Yes.

81. And what check had the supervisor gangman over the applicant?—I gave him a list.

82. Each day?—No, not each day.

83. How often?—Perhaps once a fortnight.

84. Did it ever happen that more people received work than were on your list?—Yes, they forced themselves on the work.

85. And the gangman did not know whether you were going to include them or not?—He knew they were forced on him, and he warned them he had no instructions, and that they worked on their own risk.

86. Do I understand you to say that you gave the gangman the list the day before?—Yes, the first week, and, and if there was a change he had a fresh list.

87. After you gave the first list, in the interval between that and the next week if persons became destitute, and you thought it necessary to put them on, what did you do?—I would bring it before the Board.

88. You did not, in the first instance, visit the homes of the applicants?—I could not.

89. And what means had you of knowing whether they were really distressed or not?—Oh, I did know. I knew them this long time.

90. But I suppose you did not know the circumstances of every man from day to day?—No.

91. Had you any knowledge whatever of the destitution of the persons you ordered or caused to be ordered to get relief?—I had when I made inquiries.

92. But you say you could not do that?—Not in all cases.

93. What inquiries did you make?—I went to their places whenever I could and made inquiries and saw them.

94. You had an assistant?—Yes.

95. What was his name?—Swift.

96. What were his duties?—The same as mine.

97. Was Swift under your orders?—Yes.

98. He did not act independently of you?—He acted in three divisions confined to himself.

99. He had nothing to say to you?—No, except to do his instructions.

100. Did he bring his own books before the Guardians?—No; I kept the books in my own possession. He was to help me to mark them and make them up and see them regulated, but I never gave him charge of them.

101. How long had Swift been in that district?—From May.

102. Was he an inhabitant of that district?—Yes.

103. How long?—From infancy.

104. He knew the condition of the people?—He did, he had as good a right as I had.

105. Did you represent to the Guardians that you could not make sufficient inquiries into the condition of all the people you were supposed to visit?—No man could do it. It would take three or four men weeks to do it.

106. But did you represent to the Guardians that you were unable to make the usual inquiries as to the destitution of the persons who applied to you?—I did, I told them I could not do it—and that ten relieving officers could not do it in the first fortnight.

107. When did you tell them that?—I told one of the Guardians in the first week.

108. What Guardian?—Mr. O'Donnell.

109. But did you tell the Board of Guardians in the Board-room?—Yes.

110. Can you tell the date of that?—No.

111. Do you remember what order the Guardians made?—That is the only Guardian I can account for—Mr. O'Donnell.

112. But you told the Board?—Yes.

113. Well, did they make any reply to you?—Yes, that was when I got the assistant on.

114. That was after you told them the work was too heavy for you to attend to it?—Yes.

115. Did you ever tell them that the work was too much for you and your assistant?—Well, I took sick then and was five weeks laid up.

116. During the time the relief was in force?—Yes.

117. Who did your duty when you were sick?—My son.

118. Was he appointed by the Board of Guardians?—Yes, in my place.

119. How old is your son?—Thirty and upwards.

120. Does he know the condition of the people as well as you?—Yes, every bit.

121. Did he adopt the same course as you did in the giving of the work and relief?—I could not swear that, but I believe he did. That was his instructions.

122. If a person required provisional relief within two or three days of the Guardians meeting, did you put him on the works or give him relief in money?—I gave him provisional relief and employment until I would bring it before the Board.

123. Where did you give the employment?—On works.

124. Those to whom you gave provisional relief, did you give them an order to the gangman or what did you do?—I gave them word verbally and afterwards gave a list.

125. Did you ever let anyone write out the list for you?—No.

126. Did anyone ever put persons on the relief works except yourself and the relieving officers?—Yes, this Guardian, Mr. O'Donnell, did the first week.

127. How many persons did he put on?—I can't say he put on so many.

128. Did he tell you afterwards or before?—He told me they should get employment.

129. Did he say he was going to get relief for those people and put them on?—He said he was going to put them on. I said I could not recognize them and that some perhaps were not destitute. He said they were all destitute and wanted employment.

130. Did you bring these cases before the Guardians?—Yes.

131. What orders were made?—For a long time they gave them nothing, but those men used to come in and say they worked so much so many days, and that they should get something for it; and then some got it, and others did not.

132. This Guardian used to bring a list to the Board?—Yes.

133. And did he say that these people worked, and were not included on the relief list?—No, he said he employed them himself sometimes, as they wanted work, and then the Guardians would consider it.

134. Did the Guardian order these people to be relieved?—As many as they considered destitute.

135. Were they down on your application report book?—They were not at the time.

136. Afterwards did you put them on?—Yes, in some cases.

137. Were you ordered to do so?—Yes.

138. With regard to your assistants, did they do anything with reference to writing up the books?—Yes, they kept the books for five weeks.

139. How did you determine the chargeability of the persons you relieved in each case?—According to the division he was in.

140. You had no doubt about it?—No.

141. If a person came from one division and worked in another?—He was charged in his own division, even if he worked five miles away.

142. How often did you attend the Board meetings?—Every day, except when I was sick.

143. How did you give the relief to those persons who worked?—I gave them an order on the contractor—printed tickets; so much according to his daily.

144. Were they paid at the end of the day, or at

REMARKS
—
Mr. James
Cusfield.

Examination
made at
Mr. Jervis,
Cardiff.

"the end of their work!—At the end of the week—Saturday.

145. Did the gangmen return to you a list of those who worked?—Yes.

146. I suppose it generally happened that all the persons whose names you gave as fit to work were on it?—Yes, they were.

147. Did the persons come to you to receive payment?—Yes.

148. And in Swift's case they came to him?—No, they always came to my place. My place was the depot for giving out the tickets for relief.

149. So the people from the whole relief district came to your house?—Yes, and sometimes I would see them in the town and tell them, and I would attend here for four or five hours.

150. Had you any particular hour for giving out these tickets?—No; I had Friday and Saturday.

151. But had you any special hours?—About ten, and earlier, up to dusk at night.

152. And then you relieved them for the previous week?—Yes.

153. How far is the most remote part of your district from your house?—I think it is about twelve miles Irish.

154. How far is the most remote depot from your house?—Well, it is a pretty central place, Glensmoy.

155. That was the relief centre?—Yes, and it is about four miles all round.

156. What was the nature of the relief you gave on these tickets?—It said, "Please supply" so and so "with so much Indian meal," and that was sent to Glensmoy or Belmullet. There was also one at Laver.

157. You filled up these?—No, I signed them. Three men would not fill them up.

158. Who filled them up?—The assistants.

159. Who was it fixed how much each person was to receive?—The Guardians.

160. So all you had to do was to fix the amount of meal according to the Guardians' order?—Yes.

161. Did anyone ever fill up a ticket except yourself?—Yes, but they did not sign them.

162. Did you ever sign any blank tickets?—I do not think I did. It would be no use.

163. Did you ever give a blank ticket to a man to have it filled up afterwards?—No.

164. Your son was working for you. Did he sign for you?—Yes; but was responsible for me. I told the assistant Swift not to sign, that the son would be responsible to me.

165. Was there any supervision on the part of the Guardians over the relief depot. Did you ever stand there while the relief was being given out to see that the proper relief was afforded?—I attended at Belmullet here.

166. I suppose the people never got any relief except what was specified in the ticket?—I suppose not, indeed.

167. Did you ever know of any such case?—I suppose the contractor would not give except what was on the ticket.

168. Did you ever know of such a case?—As what, sir?

169. In which he gave other articles than those mentioned on the ticket?—I do not. He was very conscientious himself.

170. Now as to the works, how many of them were in your district?—Twenty-three; perhaps more.

171. Who laid them out?—The Guardians in the board room.

172. Were they works of utility?—Very much so.

173. If you gave relief to one family how many members of that family worked on these works?—Only one.

174. And the others. They were allowed to remain and till the ground, I presume?—Yes, on the farms.

175. Referring to your statement of the impossibility of your making sufficient inquiry into the destitution of the people, do you think that many got relief who were not entitled to it?—I certainly think

they did at the commencement of it, but after inquiry into it they were struck out.

176. How long do you think such people worked before they were struck out?—About a fortnight from that time that they were found out.

177. Who was responsible for these persons getting relief who were not entitled to it?—I don't know.

178. Did you not consider you were the person responsible?—No.

179. You found you could not keep up to the work?—Yes.

180. And you knew that the Local Government Board had only a certain grant, and that the time these were remaining on would result in so much falling on the rates?—Well, I was not aware.

181. The Chairman.—In your district how many depots were there?—I think three. There was one at Laver, but there was not sufficient store there.

182. In Portadown in your district?—Yes.

183. How far from Glensmoy?—About three miles or better.

184. Is any portion of your district more than three miles from Glensmoy?—Oh, yes, something more than that.

185. Have you ever been to Portadown?—Yes.

186. How long did it take you to drive?—It is about four Irish miles.

187. How far is Portadown?—About three and a half miles by the short cut by the mountains.

188. You say that every week the names of persons requiring relief were brought before the guardians?—Yes.

189. And all were entered in the application and report book?—Yes.

190. You say that after some time—some weeks or so—the number of people employed in your district was reduced?—Yes.

191. About what date was that?—I could not say.

192. How many weeks after the works began?—That what, sir?

193. How many weeks after the works began were the reductions made?—Oh, there was a general reduction about six weeks after.

194. A general reduction, but was any reduction made before that?—Yes, in the case of those persons that were found not to be destitute.

195. Well, when was that?—About three weeks after I began to work.

196. Did you bring these cases before the board?—Yes.

197. Did you make observations about their not being distressed?—My son and I did.

198. Did you bring the matter before the attention of the board?—My son and I did. My son had the same instructions as I had, and I knew the people were put off.

199. You said just now they were on for about three weeks?—Yes.

200. You were relieving officer during that time?—Yes. I was only a fortnight at that when I got ill.

201. Then who was relieving officer if you were not?—My son was appointed in my place.

202. When did your illness begin?—I am not sure.

203. However, during that fortnight, and for a week afterwards, as I understand you, those people were working. Now, was it you or your son came before the Guardians with reference to these people?—I can only say that they made inquiries if they were destitute, and found out that they were not, and put them off.

204. Who brought the book before the Board during that three weeks?—During the fortnight I did.

205. And were any persons on the list during that fortnight who were afterwards struck off?—They were, in general, sir. They made such a rush that you could not help it.

206. Why did you put them on if they were not destitute?—I would not do it.

207. But you had them on?—Yes, I had them on the application book until I found that they were not destitute.

208. Did you make inquiry during that three weeks if they were destitute?—Not till I got better; but my assistant and my son did.

209. Did you think it part of your duty to put persons on the list, and afterwards inquire as to their destitution; or inquire first, and then put them on?—They came with such a rush at first, and made such a row, there was no knowing what to do.

Thomas Reilly, Relieving Officer, sworn.

213. Mr. Robinson—How many assistants had you?—One.

214. What is your district?—Bangor.

215. What was your assistant's duty?—To take the applications, receive them; and report them to me—any destination cases.

216. Were there works started by the Guardians in your district?—Yes.

217. When an application was made to you, how did you go about putting the man on the works?—I went and examined into his destitution at his own house, and afterwards put him on the list of destitute, and set him on the works.

218. You wrote the list out at the beginning of the week of every man you were going to put on?—Yes.

219. Had your assistant authority to put persons on the works, or had he to apply to you?—He took applications.

220. Did he order persons to go on the works?—No.

221. But was he authorized to do that by you?—No.

222. What was his name?—Pat O'Malley.

223. Have you any idea how many he put on the works without being authorized by you?—I cannot say.

224. Can you say were the cases put on by him written up in the application and report book?—Well, I went over his book, and I knew the destitute cases myself.

225. But as to those cases you may be put on, what did you do?—I took them off the works as not destitute.

226. And they were not in the application and report book?—No.

227. Were paid for the relief of these persons?—None were not paid at all.

228. Did anybody else ever put people on the works besides Pat O'Malley and yourself?—Yes; there were works started that we did not recognize.

229. Who started them?—Father James Duroon, I believe, started them.

230. Did he apply to you to put people on?—He did.

231. He had written to me to put destitute people on.

232. Did he put people on himself?—He did. He put some on the road that were not started by the board of guardians at all.

233. And how were they paid?—Was it a private work?—It was. The roads he worked them on were not passed by the board of guardians at all.

234. Did he give you a list of those he wanted you to put on the work?—No.

235. Went any of the people you put on for him included in the application and report book?—Yes.

236. Did you inquire into the destitution of every case?—Yes, where application was made to me.

237. And your assistant?—Yes.

238. In every case?—No, not in every case.

239. You took his word that he made inquiries?—Partly, but I knew the parties in the district well.

240. What method of payment had you in your district?—By ticket.

241. Did the people call at your house for them?—Yes, once a week.

242. Was the day generally known throughout the district?—Yes.

210. You put them on, and kept them on for a fortnight without inquiry?—Yes, for I could not; and then I got sick.

211. Then your son took up?—Yes, and the assistant.

212. And you did not know if these people had been struck off?—I did not know how they managed.

243. The superintendent of the works gave you a list of the persons who worked?—Yes.

244. And if it was a proper amount of work you gave them a ticket?—Yes.

245. What was the provision you gave except meal?—Nothing but meal.

246. Do you know of cases in which they received anything but meal?—No, nothing but meal as far as I could tell.

247. Did your assistant sign tickets?—No.

248. No one but you?—No, I did all myself.

249. The contractors, I presume, kept those tickets?

250. They were vouchers—did the clerk check them?—Yes.

251. What works were started in your district?—I don't know the exact number now. There were a good number—roads and so on.

252. Were there many employed at the works whom you considered not destitute?—Not many indeed.

253. Were there any?—Very few that had not been really destitute.

254. Do I understand you to say you were able to make inquiry in every case?—I did, in nearly every case.

255. You say there were very few who received relief who were not destitute?—Yes.

256. How came it, then, that you put on some who were not destitute?—Well, there had been some recommended by the private of portion of the district.

257. Well, did you make inquiry into these cases?—Yes, and some of the guardians made application to me and insisted on my putting some on.

258. Could you mention the guardians who insisted on having persons on whom you did not consider destitute?—I could not mention them now; they were considerable.

259. Did you consider those persons destitute?—Well, they were not rich people.

260. Did you consider them destitute?—They were poor.

261. Were they destitute?—Some of them were very poor.

262. Were they poor enough to be proper persons to put on the roads?—Yes.

263. So then it was not the guardians who put on the people who were not destitute?—No.

264. How is it, then, that some people were put on who were not in cases?—Well, there were very few indeed.

265. And the relief in every case was given on a ticket signed by yourself?—Yes.

266. You can't give me any further explanation of those persons being on who were not destitute?—No, it was just at the beginning.

267. The Chairman—What wages were those people getting?—Some up to one cart of meal, and they were reduced down afterwards.

268. And that would be for a week?—Yes, some got less.

269. How did you determine the amount?—The order was made in my application and report book, and that was kept to.

270. What did the gangmen get?—The same as the others, except at the beginning, when they got a little more.

MR. THOMAS REILLY.
MR. JAMES CONFIELD.

REMARKS.
—
Mr. Thomas
Bailey.

270. How much more?—I dare say some got one stone of meal the first fortnight, and then they were reduced to the same pittance as the labouring class.

271. Was the number of people employed on your district reduced?—They were.

272. When?—After the first fortnight we started.

273. Could you give the date when the numbers were reduced?—It is in the application and report book, I dare say.

274. Do you remember that after some weeks the

works were stopped?—Yes; about the 3th of June, I think.

275. And for how long?—About two weeks.

276. What did you do to relieve those destitute people in that period?—We gave provisional relief in some cases.

277. How many cases did you so relieve?—I could not say the exact number, but will make a return.

278. Did anyone suffer from want of relief in that fortnight?—No, for the worst cases were looked after by us.

James Caulfield recalled.

Mr. James
Caulfield.

279. Mr. Robinson.—At the time the works were suspended altogether by the guardians for two weeks how many applications had you for relief at that time?—I cannot say exactly.

280. Can you form an opinion how many were relieved by you during that time?—I think there were about 100.

281. Did you take any special steps at that time to prevent any suffering occurring in consequence of

the action of the guardians?—The works were started immediately after.

282. But during the time the guardians suspended the relief works for two weeks did you take any steps or your assistant to meet the wants?—Yes. We gave them provisional relief—that is to the most poor.

283. How many?—I can't say exactly, but will find out and hand it in.

John Nolan, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Mr. John
Nolan.

284. Mr. Robinson.—How many assistants had you?—One. This is my district.

285. What duty did he do?—Helped to fill some tickets, and in one particular case he looked after the works.

286. Was he directly under you?—Yes.

287. I suppose you got the same instructions from the guardians as in the other cases?—Yes.

288. What number of works were started?—About twenty-five altogether.

289. Were they in convenient parts of the district?—Yes.

290. Do you remember the number of persons you gave relief to?—No, not at present.

291. Did you do the same as the others—all one list and give it to the supervisors of works at the commencement?—Sometimes; other times I attended the works and put the men on the district, appointing certain roads.

292. Had your assistant that authority?—No.

293. Were you able to visit the whole of those?—Some. I could not go to all.

294. Were there many people put on the works whose circumstances you were unaware of?—Some. They were taken off afterwards when I found they had means. In the rush at first some were put on.

295. Were any such persons put on by any one but yourself and your assistant?—In the first week some guardians thought they had a right to put on persons, and two or three were put on in that way; and when I mentioned the matter there was only one put on in that way.

296. What mode of payment was there?—I had an assistant, and I filled in the tickets, except in one case when I was weather-bound at Inshilla.

297. There was no other case of tickets not signed by you?—No.

298. Did the people get anything but the meal?—Some got tobacco. Some would as soon have tobacco as meal, and some in cases of sickness got groceries.

299. Who did they get the tobacco from?—From the contractor, I suppose.

300. The Chairman.—What were the wages of the gangmen?—Three shillings the first fortnight or three weeks. They were three days a week on the work.

301. They were selected from the poor people?—All nine were amongst the poorest except one who had some means, but he was the only one on the island who understood it.

302. What was the depot?—Blackhead was appointed depot, but the contractor sent meal there only one week. The people preferred going to the town. Meal was a penny a bushel at Blackhead, and the people preferred coming to the town for it.

303. Do you remember when the relief works were stopped?—Yes.

304. What became of the destitute poor of your district during that fortnight?—The parish priest of Kilmore parish had a private fund, I issued tickets and he gave the names of persons, and I relieved 100 families. There were other cases where he did not supply; I issued private orders on Mr. Conway, and when the works commenced I deducted the amount of meal from the tickets they got.

305. Could you say how many of those tickets were issued afterwards and honoured by the guardians?—Very few, only about thirty or forty, but a good deal were relieved by private fund.

Mr. William Atkinson sworn.

Mr. William
Atkinson.

306. Mr. Robinson.—You are an ex-officio member of the Board?—Yes.

307. Did you attend regularly during the period of the administration of the relief fund?—Yes, every board day, but not all the others.

308. I see that you called attention to Mr. Bailey having people referred who were not destitute?—He insisted that they were destitute.

309. I suppose the evidence as to the relieving officers, and their instructions by the board of guardians is correct?—Well I really hardly can say that. I heard a great many things stated by the

clerk and relieving officers which struck me as not being correct. I do not carry all they said in my recollection; but first of all Mr. Flynn said that parties were taken on by the relieving officers before ordered by the Board. I think they were taken on by the Guardians, and not by the relieving officers.

310. Do you know of any such case?—I heard of it here at the board. I am myself quite new at the mission.

311. Mr. Flynn.—I may say, in both cases it is only a surmise, for we could not know it.

312. Mr. Robinson.—Mr. Caulfield says that because of the great pressure he was not able to make

inquiry into each case—do you think there was any abuse in consequence?—I do not know that district. I know the Gloucester district, and I know that some of my own tenants got relief who were not entitled to it at all.

313. Could you tell us the valuation or rental of such persons?—I know that Martin Conway's valuation is £10, and he had thirteen head of cattle; and I am informed that Reilly insisted that he was destitute.

314. Did that man do a full day's work on the road?—I can't say.

315. Have you any other case?—There were two men getting relief from Rathkell district, named Howard, who tenanted land from me, and they had it well stocked, and a lot of sheep, and a mare and foal. I called his attention to it, and his answer was that they were very poor and got relief.

316. Do you think if the relief had been confined solely to those who were destitute, the grants made by the Local Government Board would have been sufficient, without throwing any of the charge on the rates?—I have not the smallest doubt about it; and that there would have been a surplus. There was a great abuse perpetrated at first—a great rush—for everybody put in.

John Conway sworn.

317. Mr. Robinson.—You were the contractor for relief?—Yes.

318. Have you been paid?—No, not all; there is a balance due.

319. How many relief depots had you under your charge?—Five, I think.

320. Were you able to superintend them yourself?—No; I appointed an agent in each of them.

321. Did you make any inspection of the depots?—I sent a young man along with the meal to be distributed.

322. Did you send out meal there every week to those depots?—I sent it as required. It would not keep very long; it was fresh.

323. When relieving these people did they in any case make application for anything except food?—Oh, yes, they would ask for everything.

324. What sort of things?—Well, some had the audacity to ask for whiskey.

325. Many?—Well, I heard two. I said I would take down their names and report them.

326. Did they ask for tobacco, or that sort of thing?—Yes, some did; some asked for sugar.

327. From the reports you received from your agents, do you think that these applications were ever acceded to?—There were not facilities for doing so, except in some cases, where tobacco may have been given by parties who had shops of their own.

328. Are you aware of any cases where parties got anything but meal?—On my premises?

329. Or in any of your depots?—In town they sometimes got sugar and tea and bread.

330. Did they ever get tobacco in your place?—Sometimes they would get a bit in place of a part of the meal at the agents.

331. These agents, had they shops of their own?—Yes, they were the only places I could get.

332. What knowledge have you of whether they always supplied the meal?—I sent the meal and it was layed out.

333. In sending a supply for a week, how did you

317. As a guardian did you make any efforts to correct it?—I did. I voted to get people struck out, and they would not be struck off. I do not wish to confine the numbers of those who got relief, and who I believe to be not destitute, to the two I mentioned. I am only talking about a small part of the district I was intimate with myself.

318. But you believe there were others?—I think there were five or six more.

319. Could you give any particulars of any of these cases?—Well, John Barrett was taken on, and he was after getting an addition to his holding from me, because I considered him a solvent tenant, and he was put on the relief, and I spoke to Reilly.

320. And the time that these men were ruled on by the Board of Guardians, were you present?—Yes, and I called attention to it.

321. That they were getting relief to the exclusion of others?—Yes, several times; and on a bye-day I spoke to the Guardians to strike them off.

322. The Chairman.—Whenever you attended the meeting of the Guardians were the cases for outdoor relief brought forward in the regular manner?—Yes.

323. Mr. Robinson.—You were the exact amount that would be required by the tickets?—The tickets were brought direct to the localities, and I had to give a guess of the amount that would be required.

324. Were you ever short?—Sometimes; and sometimes there were tickets three weeks issued before the relief was applied for.

325. Were even tickets brought to you which were not signed by the relieving officer or his assistant?—Two were certainly suspicious.

326. In whose names were they?—One was signed Simon Caulfield.

327. Did you think it a forgery?—I showed it myself to Caulfield, and he repudiated it. I have not been paid for it since.

328. Have you any idea or opinion about that?—I can't say. The man who gave it to me told me he got it from one of the Caulfield family.

329. The Chairman.—Did you observe the dates of the orders. Was it an unusual occurrence for tickets to come in three weeks after they were dated?—Well, it was rather customary in some districts.

330. Have you any idea what the people did during the three weeks; how did they get on?—My clerk would ask, and they would say they could not get them from the relieving officers for a fortnight or so after date. That is the excuse they gave.

331. Mr. Robinson.—Were there many cases of that sort?—As many as about 150.

332. What were your five divisions or depots?—Belmullet, Glencanny, Rosport, and Blackrod. Well, in Blackrod I once sent it there, but it was 10d. there and 6d. in Belmullet, so they would rather come and take it away.

333. Had you not a depot at Bangor?—Yes.

334. Are you sure of having one at Rosport?—For a while.

335. And Inver?—For a time.

336. How long did you continue it at Rosport?—About a week after the contract.

James Caulfield recalled.

337. Mr. Robinson.—It has been stated that in one case a ticket was presented not signed by you, and which you repudiated, and that the man who presented it stated it had been signed by one of your family.

Are you aware of any such thing having been done?—I am aware that a ticket was presented to him signed by my name, but not signed by me or by any of my family.

Reminded.
Mr. William
Adams.

Mr. James
Caulfield.

Deputy-Commissioner
Mr. James
Garfield

354. And you know nothing about it?—Nothing. I gave no credit for it.

355. Do you know of any other instance in which tickets were presented in your name and not signed by you?—No, never but the one case.

356. How long after the cessation of the week's work did you give the tickets; what delay would there be?—When it would be passed by the board on the following day.

Alexander
Bryce, F.R.S.

360. Mr. Robinson.—Is the account given by the relieving officers as to the giving of relief correct?—Yes, very nearly.

361. Is there anything you wish to correct?—Well I would like to say a few words about my own division and as to the grants from the Local Government Board being ample to meet the distress, I may safely contend that. The people from my district—Knockaduff—came in here in a state of destitution, some falling down here, and the doctor had to visit them and relieve them for the night. Some I took to my own house, and only the clergy supplemented the grant this house would not hold them.

362. Do you think all the people who received relief were destitute?—As far as my district is concerned I believe it, and that a great deal who had a right to get it did not get it. We cut them down to the very lowest.

363. Was the amount of relief determined by the guardians?—Yes, on the opinion of the relieving officer.

364. Were the books ruled up to date?—Yes. I did not miss two days myself. We sat three days a week from ten till nine at night.

365. The Chairman.—Were you present on the 3rd of June?—I cannot say. I know I was only absent about two days.

366. Do you remember the roadster stopping the works?—Yes. That was because it was being charged on the rules, and we thought it better to relieve on the rules than have a charge; and then we gave directions that no one should suffer, and to relieve the worst cases in the usual way.

367. You gave instructions to relieve them during that time?—Yes, and the clergy came to our assistance and dispensed relief as best they could.

368. The instructions given were to relieve all the destitute?—Yes, to see that the people would not suffer.

369. You thought you could manage in that way?—Yes, we thought they would pull through.

370. I see they got six shillings and nine shillings the first week?—Two gentlemen got something more than the rest. We were a little liberal at first.

371. And in the fortnight when you ceased the works did anyone die of starvation?—No. We gave instructions to our relieving officers not to allow people to suffer from destitution. But I know there were very many poor people the picture of hunger, and who fell down from weakness. Some were not so bad.

372. What increase was there in the ordinary out-door relief in that fortnight?—I know myself the people got a good deal that did not come off the Board. The clergy were appealed to, and got a good deal done in that way. It was cut down by the relieving officers, who had to go into each case separately, and we limited on their making close inquiries in each case.

373. Do you think the Guardians' instructions were properly carried out by the relieving officers and all the officials?—They did as well as they could under the circumstances.

374. You think that all the expenses that were incurred were necessary?—Yes, I am sure of it; and only we exercised strict supervision it would have been twice as much. We deserve credit for keeping it so low. The clergy, the Protestant and Catholic

357. Did you bring the list of persons entitled to the relief every day?—Yes.

358. Then it is not correct to say there was a delay of a fortnight between the time the work was done and the issue of the tickets?—No, I cannot account for that.

359. Your practice was to issue it at once?—Yes. In one or two cases there might be a delay, but it was not the practice.

Alexander Bryce, F.R.S., sworn.

deputy, were complaining that we were not giving relief to the persons who really wanted it.

375. When you say you were a little liberal at first, do you mean that improper persons got relief?—No, I mean that we might have cut it a little lower. There might be odd cases, but we cut them down here and there, as we saw our way.

376. The Chairman.—There appears to have been, according to the clerk's return for the week preceding the stoppage of the works, 7,442 persons on out-door relief, under the Poor Relief Act. The next two weeks there were no cases under that Act, and only an increase of twenty-four under the ordinary out-door relief?—We were liberal at the beginning, and then the clergy came to our aid.

377. You, but there is a great difference between 7,442 and twenty-four?—But a person who gets six shillings that week may be able to pull through next.

378. But what about three weeks?—Well, when we gave all that relief the people cease to stagnate with destitution.

379. When was the distress at its highest?—I should say about July was about the worst time.

380. What part of July?—I think generally through it.

381. How is it that in May the number of persons for the week ending the 22nd was 8,736, whereas in July, week ending 3rd July, the number was only 5,318, if the distress was greater in July?—Well, people could sell in June; they could sell their cattle; but they could not sell in March or April.

382. You believe there was less distress in July than May?—Yes. People were able to make sale of their cattle, and they came into condition in July, and fairs got better.

383. So there was a gradual improvement in July?—Yes, in consequence of the cattle, and a good deal of relief from the clergy, and so on.

384. Between the 15th and 24th July there was an increase, under the Poor Relief Act, from 4,149 to 6,008—nearly 2,000 persons. How is that accounted for if there was an improvement in the state of the country?—In all cases where we heard they got relief from the clergy we struck them off; and when we found relief stopped we put them on again, of course.

385. When it is accounted for by the clergy putting them on?—Yes. Each Guardian found out what was done privately, and brought it before the Board.

386. What do you think would have happened if there was no Relief Act passed?—The people would have starved. Six workhouses would not hold them.

387. Would the people go to the workhouses?—They would, of course, have to do so.

388. Was there an increase in the admissions to the workhouse before the Relief Act?—Well, no.

389. Was there a large increase in out-door relief in the early spring?—March, I think, was the worst time; the relief came then about April, I think.

390. I see that on the 6th of March there were fifty-three persons, and on the 3rd of April sixty-seven persons on out-door relief; was the distress increasing very much?—Yes, from March on. The provisions got worse, and there was no credit, because there was no means of paying the debts, and the people were thrown entirely on the relief.

391. On the 3rd of April there were only sixty-seven

persons. Is that a fair index?—No, for we were over-burdened with taxation, and could not give it.

322. But I presume you did not let anyone die?—No, but I would rather have resigned than do anything to increase the burdens.

323. On the 3rd of April what was the state of the destitute poor with only statutory aid on out-door relief; was there then great distress?—Yes. It was very great; the people were clamouring, and the clergy had to take refuge from these.

324. But the guardians did not think it necessary to give the relief?—We could not attempt to tax the people more.

325. Mr. Robinson.—Relieving Officer Caulfield stated that in consequence of the numbers who applied to him he was unable to make such inquiries as were necessary into the circumstances of the applicants, and that he represented that to the Board of guardians. Did it ever occur to the board of guardians to appoint some one else so as to make more strict inquiries?—No, we did not do that. The clergy used to come to us, and it was thought that it was the duty of the relieving officers to take instructions

from the clergy who knew the people, and some went to work in that way that Caulfield could not test, and then they were taken off, or if they continued they were not paid. But those who were very bad got on—even provisionally, before the works under the Act really commenced.

326. Did it occur to you that a few additional relieving officers might have prevented persons getting on who were not destitute?—Well, Caulfield never made application for that. We often asked them did they make full inquiries, and there were differences of opinion between the relieving officers and the guardians, and we generally went by the relieving officers.

327. You spoke of being a little liberal; why were you not?—Well, we decided what would be liberal. The Inspector was here, and we decided after consideration to give it, a day. That, no doubt, was a great deal, and the reason we worked out the three days in the week was so that the people might till their land and have the crops brought in.

328. Mr. Ashmore.—Three shillings was the highest?—Yes; for altogether for the gangmen. The others got less of course.

The Rev. Henry Benson, *v.r.*, Belmont, sworn.

329. Mr. Robinson.—We would be glad to hear any observations you may desire to make?—I would desire to observe that in the early part of the year, before distress actually set in on the people, they were encouraged to come to the workhouse and make a cry, for the purpose of making a representation that distress to an abnormal degree existed; whereas, to my knowledge, it did not. I met these people on several occasions, and asked what brought them in, and they said that they came on invitation, and that if they came and kicked up a row, public works would be established, and relief given. They said they were told to represent themselves as destitute—as destitute as could be. No doubt many were destitute, as many are now destitute, but at that time no abnormal distress, to my knowledge, prevailed in this district.

330. The Chairman.—To what time do you refer now?—Up to the end of February, or beginning of March—my February. Owing to the representations made by these people of the state of destitution, in the Union, the Guardians passed a resolution which, I understand, they forwarded to the Local Government Board, in which they stated—I forget the precise terms of it—that widespread and great distress and destitution prevailed in the Union. That was the substance of it. Before the Relief of Distress Act was passed there was some talk here about the propriety of making representations to the Local Government Board to enable the Guardians to anticipate the provisions of that Act, and, as a matter of fact, before the Act was passed at all they proceeded to administer it, and to give instructions to their relieving officers, who had decided how they carried out those instructions. To my own knowledge in some instances the persons who were ruled as subjects for relief in the Guardians' books did not get their tickets in the week for which they had been ruled, and in some cases until more than a week. Some went to the relieving officers and said they might as well not have their Guardians.

331. Can you give us an instance?—Well, notably in the case of relieving officer Bodly. People from the Hill of Slory came and complained that, after earning their tickets and going for them, they had their work and journey for nothing. In another instance a case was reported to me, and I reported it here, to this effect. A man who was on the relief list, and would be entitled to get the proper ordinary quantity each week, waited on the relieving officer at Dougor, and got a ticket for flour instead of meal. In the meantime this man had drawn, by anticipation, on the week at the depot, and got in that way portion of the meal that was coming to him, and which he would be entitled to the following week. Well, the ticket for flour would not be honoured at the depot where the

meal was issued. This man was told he could take his ticket for flour, and my memory is not quite clear whether he had to take flour, and had, incident, to give an equivalent in flour for the meal he had drawn in anticipation. I gave that as an illustration of how people were being treated, and with a view to such a thing being over done again.

332. Had your representation the desired effect?—I believe so as to that point. Now as to the stopping of relief works during the fortnight referred to, the question was asked as to how the people managed to get along, the relief having been stopped. In my district from the 30th of May to about the 25th of June I relieved in my own parish 152 families, giving to each an average of one ewt. of meal, and that out of a population of 350 families. That would show how in one portion of the district people managed to do, and I am sure in other districts similarly through the action of the clergy. At the same time I may mention there were in small sums many persons provisionally relieved to the amount of £10.

333. Had you been giving relief before?—Yes, in occasional cases where the people were destitute, and not taken on by the relieving officer. I may tell you that after the resolution was passed by the board of guardians to which I referred, I may say that I, acting a public body taking the matter up, made an appeal for funds, and received there to a considerable amount from the time I made the first appeal to the end. I have not the exact amounts here but will get them, (Witness subsequently handed in the figures as follows: April, twenty families; May, fifteen families, June, 154 families; July, sixty-six families; total 357. Nature of relief—meal in quantities of one ewt. (Gave average total cost of meal, £28). In addition to this £20 was given for the purpose of seeding land, and relief otherwise.) I may say that when the guardians put the provisions of the Relief of Distress Act into force, and up to the time that the guardians stopped the works, the draw on my resources was small, but when the guardians stopped the relief in June, the draw came on me, and I relieved a number of families in my own parish.

334. Mr. Robinson.—Did you consider that the guardians incurred a risk in striking off 7,000 people from relief?—Yes, I was certain of it.

335. Did you protest against it?—Well, there was a large meeting here, and the question was put as to what the people would do in that time, and one guardian replied to this effect—that "there is plenty of money coming from America, and we do not know what is becoming of it." I stood up and said I happened to be the only person in receipt of funds for

Witness
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Alexander
Bogley, *v.r.*

Rev. Henry
Benson, *v.r.*

REMARKS.
Rev Henry
Hewson, F.R.S.

distress, and that I thought my character was sufficient to justify the belief that funds entrusted to me would be properly applied. We all thought it was most risky to stop the relief works.

406. Did you think that the guardians at the time had any idea of the fraud in your hands?—No. No one knew of it except my cousin.

407. With regard to the relief works which were carried out, do you think they were of utility?—No, except in two cases they were thoroughly useless.

408. Was the test of destitution a good one?—No; they would get every man in Erin to go on the road on that test.

409. So that those works are not useful either as a test of destitution or as works of advantage to the people?—No, certainly they were not a test of destitution, and only two were of utility—one road leading to the strand at Cloughan, and the other from Tip to the sea.

410. It was stated by Relieving Officer Caulfield that he could not make sufficient inquiry as to those entitled to relief. Do you think that if the fund of the Local Government Board had been properly and strictly administered it would have been sufficient?—I do, if only the destitute cases were sought out. There were persons in receipt of relief who were not entitled to it at all.

411. Do you know each case?—Yes.

412. Had you an opportunity of calling the attention of the guardians or of the relieving officers to it?—As a matter of fact, the guardians themselves used to take charge of tickets given them by the relieving officers, and present those tickets at the depots and take the meal home, and I heard the question raised did the meal fall into the hands of the people for whom it was intended.

Thomas Reilly, Relieving Officer, recalled.

418. Mr. Robinson.—Do you know of any pickaxes being paid for and not delivered?—There is only one, I believe, outstanding.

419. Did you get all that were paid for?—Yes, except four cross-bars.

420. And they were not delivered to you?—Not yet.

421. Were all the tools paid for by the guardians and used on the works handed over to you?—Yes, except one or two.

422. You are responsible for the tools paid for by the guardians, and so used?—Yes, all that were for my use.

423. Are they all now in the house?—Yes, except four bars, and a pickaxe.

424. How were they lost?—They are in town.

425. Rev. Mr. Hewson.—The statement is that twenty pickaxes were paid for which were not supplied at all, and have certainly not been accounted for by the officer responsible. Did Mr. Murphy supply you with twenty pickaxes?—I supplied twenty-three picks, and eight bars to the men.

426. Mr. Robinson.—How many pickaxes was Mr. Murphy paid for by the guardians?—Thirty one I think.

427. They were ordered to be handed to you?—Yes, I got the order from the guardians, and did not take them from Mr. Murphy except as required.

428. Mr. Redington.—Did you remove them all?—Not the first day.

413. Mr. Redington.—Have you any more information?—I can supply you with the details of the relief I myself administered.

414. Mr. Robinson.—You did not know about the relief work started by Father Darcen. It was stated by the relieving officer that Father Darcen started relief works without being authorised?—I did not know of it myself.

415. Mr. Redington.—Do you know of your own knowledge where the relief depots at convenient distances, or did you hear complaints as to the distances people had to go?—No; if the depots were properly supplied and the people properly relieved they were sufficiently content.

416. Mr. Robinson.—You say the works were not a test of destitution, and referred to the loose way in which the fund was administered. Have you ever formed an opinion as to what would be the best plan to adopt at such a time?—I would rather give the people small loans, which they would repay. Mr. Brady has done that, and with success.

417. For what purpose would you give these loans?—For any purpose. For instance, in the spring time, when persons are destitute, if they get work on their own land, and get the loan of a few pounds, it would enable them to support themselves while working, and they would be able to pay it off by easy instalments. As to the administration of relief, it is wrong to let it go forth that certain implements were paid for that have not been delivered without an opportunity of explanation being given. That, however, is the statement current, that a number pickaxes, for instance, were purchased and paid for out of the relief money and never delivered. An opportunity should be given of denying it.

429. Have you taken them all from Mr. Murphy's shop?—All except four bars I think, but I am not sure.

430. Mr. Robinson.—Do I understand you to say that these are now at Murphy's?—Yes, some are there, and he is prepared to deliver them.

431. Do you know anything about twenty pickaxes paid for and not delivered?—No, I got two orders from the board of guardians, they amounted to about thirty-two.

432. Rev. Mr. Hewson.—The question is, did Murphy deliver to you all the pickaxes for which he was paid?—I could not say what he was paid for.

433. Did you certify any number of pickaxes he was to be paid for?—I got an order from the guardians for a certain number of picks.

434. How many?—Thirty-two, I think.

435. Did he supply them all?—All except four, I think.

436. Were they certified for as supplied?—They were delivered to me, but they were not all used, some were brought in and not used.

437. Rev. Mr. Hewson.—The statement is this, that the relieving officer certified to have received a certain number of pickaxes, and that Murphy was paid for them although they were not supplied to the relieving officer?—Well I did not want them all.

438. But did you get them?—Yes, I got all that were ordered by the guardians except four. All that I wanted went to the works, and the remainder were delivered here.

E. H. Flynn recalled.

439. Mr. Robinson.—Before you paid for those things did you get a certificate from the relieving officer?—No, the things had to be got up in a hurry,

and no doubt there was no complete check. I asked Reilly did he get them, and he said yes.

Mr E. H.
Flynn

Rev. Michael Monthly sworn.

REMARKS.

Rev. Michael Monthly sworn.

440. Mr. Robinson.—After the guardians made the order striking off the 7,000 people from relief during the fortnight in which the works were suspended, did you administer any relief?—I did through Nolan. I gave some tickets myself, and gave a lot of others to Nolan.

441. But you had no private funds?—Of course I got some from the public, and I put them in the hands of a trader in town who issued tickets.

442. Can you say how many you relieved altogether?—I know that I issued a good amount. I have not finally closed the list.

E. N. Flynn recalled.

443. Mr. Robinson.—What is the amount of rate collected at the present time?—I can only furnish up to the 6th of November.

444. What is the amount?—Rate collected, £1,849 17s. 1d.

445. And what the amount uncollected?—£1,102 2s. 11d.

446. What is the Parliamentary grant to your Union—has the September grant to you been paid yet?—£139 10s. 3s. up to September.

447. Are there any other assets?—No other assets. That is an asset at present.

448. What are the debts for everything to September?—Due the treasurer, 270 0s. 10d. On foot of treasurer's account against the Union (to the contractors), £419 13s. 8d. Union officers, £340 13s. 2d. Other parties, £408 10s. 3d. Due collectors on the rates to 29th September (it is a liability for postage), £71 14s. 11d. Seed rate appropriated, £483 9s. 8d. This does not represent instalment, but if we had not got it then our treasurer's account would be worse by £483 9s. 8d.

449. When was that instalment due?—In April.

450. You will ultimately have to pay it?—Oh, yes. Our total ordinary liability is £1,394 4s. 6d.

451. And the poor relief deficit, £409 9s. 7d.?—There are our liabilities to September.

452. What are your total liabilities?—£2,394 14s. 1d.

453. Taking the assets from that, how much have you?—£1,135.

454. Mr. Robinson.—I thought the seed rate was due that we were liable for—£483?—It was to be paid to the Board of Works last August. It arose this way. The return was made out in my absence, and instead of returning £464, the master should have returned £464 plus £483.

455. Mr. Robinson.—Then that is actually due?—Yes.

456. And if you had not devoted that to the payment of expenses you would have a balance of £464?—Yes.

457. Mr. Robinson.—Is there an order under the Poor Supply Act in force, imposing the rates?—Yes, one-half, and the £100 was taken under that order. £1,103 is the debt to be carried forward to next year in the estimate.

458. What is the total amount of expenditure as estimated to carry on the Union to the close of the year?—

459. How much are the total credits over the debts in your estimate for the half year?—£3,361.

460. If you started clear at September, what would your estimate be?—£2,976.

461. That is the amount you would require irrespective of all the debts?—Yes.

462. The rate you have struck in this estimate varies from 5s. 8d. in the pound to 7s. 6d. in the pound?—Yes.

463. That includes all your liabilities?—Yes.

464. And your own estimate?—Yes.

465. On what basis did you make that estimate of current rate?—The in-door relief expenses are based on last year.

443. You can let us have the accounts for May, June, and July, and the number of families relieved?—Yes.

444. Mr. Robinson.—Did you hear any complaint about not having a depot on the island?—No; it would be very hard to have a depot there. They preferred after the commencement to come into the town. The price was less, and I heard then say they would rather come in and save it that way than have it brought to the island where it would cost more.

446. Do you think that fair?—There is a downward tendency in in-door and out-door relief at present, but on the whole I think the estimate fair, and perhaps if anything a little under the mark.

447. Are the estimates higher?—No, they are lower in some instances.

448. Did you make any reduction in consequence of the low contracts as to in-door relief?—No, for some are lower and others are higher.

449. Is the milk contract lower?—A little lower.

450. Out-door relief—on what do you base your estimate as to that item?—On last year. I did not see my way to set in any other way. We are supposed to take an average of years, especially in in-door and out-door relief, but in other cases we are allowed a discretion, where there may be cases of special items, which the Guardians will have to look after and consider. Of course salaries are fixtures, rates, advertising, and so on.

451. Have you taken up the salaries of last year?—Yes.

452. And salaries?—Yes, and advertisements, insurance, school requisites, stationery.

453. Have you made any change in last year's estimates?—Well, £23 allowed to myself, under the seed rate. I have taken that over.

454. Anything else?—In the last half year's account on which this was supposed to be based there were poor relief expenses, £175 4s. 1d.; relieving officer's expenses—I have taken that off. Then £483 15s. 10d. I struck that out. In all other cases it is the same as last year.

455. Do you think your estimate is as low as you could strike it under the circumstances?—I think so. In some instances I might take a little off.

456. But you think it fair on the whole?—Yes.

457. Is the balance at the close of the last half year did you include that £483 of seed rate?—Yes, that would be included in that. I should mention that there will be a special rating of 5d. in the pound upon the townland of Belmullet for repayment of two instalments—£16—of the Belmullet sewerage loan, and 9d. per pound upon the townlands of Adhyocann, Belmullet, Tallagh, Moreahan, Carokilghy, Enlybeg North, Carna, Towler, and Carr Nash, for repayment of two instalments—£26—of the Belmullet waterworks loan.

A sum of £16 has been included in the main body expenses column, the proportion of the water loan chargeable to the main at large, except these townlands.

458. What amount of seed rate is outstanding—not collected?—£1,437 2s. 5d., but a great deal of that is recoverable.

459. Now in Belmullet, what will be the full rate required?—5s. 6d., and with all charges 7s. 8d. altogether. That would be on special townlands.

460. Mr. Robinson.—In giving your evidence this morning you mentioned, I think, that there was a portion of the ordinary out-door relief cases charged to the Poor Relief Act. Is it not likely that next year it would be affected by that?—It is not likely to be so low as £114. I can tell you how it has stood in former years. In one year it was £260, another £337, another £292, £252, £188, and £114, and I

DELEGATES
Mr. E. M.
Flynn

don't think it will be so low as that next year. You ought probably add £30 to it.

485. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think this rate can be levied without difficulty in these divisions?—I hardly think it can, considering the position of affairs.

486. What is the average rate?—6s. 5d.

487. Mr. Rodington.—Were you here in the year 1879?—No.

488. I see that in 1884 there was a rate of 5s. 3d. in the pound in Knocknolower, and 5s. 1d. in an-

other; were they collected?—They were collected with as much satisfaction as the present rate.

489. Mr. Robinson.—What amount of law costs are included in your estimate?—There is £173 on the hospital, and £130 ordinary; total, £303.

490. In what period?—The hospital since February, and the other is an old outstanding debt to 18v1.

491. Have you been pressed for payments?—No, we expected it might be discharged by a Government grant.

Alexander Begley, F.R.C., recalled.

Alexander
Begley, &c. &c.

492. Mr. Rodington.—Knocknolower is your division?—Yes.

493. Seven shillings and two pence is the estimated rate applicable to that division. Could it be collected with facility in your opinion?—I am afraid not.

494. Last year it was 4s. 8d.?—Yes, and with the greatest difficulty they can get it, with police driving cattle day after day.

495. The year before it was 5s. 1d. How was that collected?—Well, I suppose they did manage to get it. The people are poor, and the police are there driving cattle every day.

496. What reason can you give for this inability?—The people have miserable little holdings in wild country places, and they have no way of getting produce even to market. They have farms, but they lose four days coming to market or fair.

497. You do not think they could pay much of the 7s. 2d.?—I know they could not. They are in great distress at present, and unable to pay what is levied off them.

498. What is the most they could pay?—4s. I think, would be a high rate for them to pay.

499. Is the valuation high or low in your division compared with the real valuation of the land?—There is no proper division. The landlords are unable to pay, and down they come on the tenants.

500. Is the land valued up to the rent or below it?—I believe it is not very highly valued. I do not reside in the division myself, though I have a knowledge of it.

501. How would you suggest to meet the deficiency?—If there could be a loan to pay off these things and give them a chance, and then let them pay it off by easy instalments. That would apply to the Fever Hospital debt, the balances under the Relief of Distress Act, and any things of that sort.

502. You would suggest that these charges be met with a loan?—Yes; otherwise I don't see how they can do it.

503. Mr. Rodington.—That would only knock off about one shilling?

Mr. Flynn (Clerk).—About 2s. 5d. would come off.

It were.—It would still be too high, I am afraid.

504. Mr. Robinson.—You said something about the police going about collecting and driving cattle. When did that occur?—It is always occurring.

505. But the greater part of the rate is paid by the landlords?—It ought to be, but they are very badly off, and then the rent is made on the land. The Guardians leave it to the collector to collect as best he can, and when they cannot get it from the landlords they go on the lands.

506. Are the collectors generally serving thirty days' notice?—They are beginning to understand that now.

507. Would it be a hardship to the landlords to pay?—I think they are very badly off; very badly able to pay. They are in many cases as poor as the people themselves.

Mr. Flynn.—I did not include the law costs, £307 11s. 8d. (hospital) and £119 18s. 1d. Total, £447 10s. 8d.

508. Mr. Robinson.—Has this estimate been before the Guardians?—No.

(Mr. Flynn handed in an estimate of rates.)

Mr. Robinson.—If any gentleman interested in any of the electoral divisions wishes to say anything with reference to this evidence, we will be glad to hear him.

Mr. William Ashmore.—I would wish to say that so far as Glenties is concerned, 6s. 8d. in the pound is moderate.

509. Mr. Robinson.—Is the greater part of it paid by the tenants?—If you take that with all the other taxes we have to pay, it is quite out of the question.

510. What are the others?—There is county cess, 4s. in the pound, and that will bring it up to 10s. 8d. in the pound.

511. That is paid by different persons from those who pay the poor rate?—No.

512. Is not the greater part of the rate paid by the land owner?—Yes.

513. And the cess by the occupier?—In many cases.

514. Are there any other charges?—Then there is income tax for the landlords along with it.

515. Has the rent been much reduced?—Well, on my property it has, by the Land Commission, been reduced by £300. It used to be £300; now it is £700, or about twenty-five per cent.

516. And this reduction makes you less able to pay rates?—Yes. Then there are charges to be paid by owners to the Board of Works, and one thing or another. There is another tax that the Land Commission collect—namely, 5s. 6d. per acre.

517. Is it heavy?—On my own property it is £20 a year.

518. Are you the occupier of any land?—I have a little on my lands, and am trying to set it.

519. What about the waste lands?—The landlord pays for that, and I had to pay seed rate since I came in for it. I am only in possession of it two years.

520. You had to pay as "subsequent occupier"?—Yes.

521. What suggestions would you make to the Commission as to the best means of meeting this rate in the first instance—do you think you could meet it?—No. I think last year four shillings was very heavy on the occupier.

522. And you do not think anything higher than that could be paid?—Nothing higher would be judicious.

523. What arrangement would you make for paying the cesses, which requires a 3s. 8d. rate—would you agree with Mr. Begley that a loan should be obtained to wipe off the other charges?—Yes, if it was done honestly, and that the people paid it back again. But the fact is, they get a loan, and try to short the payment off entirely.

524. But the Board of Guardians?—Well, if they get a loan, and it was made payable in moderate instalments, that is all that suggests itself to my mind.

525. You referred to reductions of rent—are the rents, as a general rule, higher than the valuation?—In some cases on my property it is lower.

526. But, on the whole, about your district, how do they stand?—I know no one to compare with my own.

527. Can you say the general proportion of the rent to the valuation?—I think as a general rule the rent is higher, but by a small amount. I consider that the valuation of this Union is in a very unfair way. They value the arable land excessively high,

and they put a shilling an acre on mountain tracts, which ought to be higher, and reduce the arable land. There is one other remark I would make, that I think there are too many electoral divisions.

BRUCEWATER.
—
Alexander
Budge, &c. &c.

Mr. Edwin Thomas sworn.

528. Mr. Robinson.—You are agent for some property in Binghamstown North?—Yes.

529. The estimated rate on Binghamstown North is 5s. 10d.—do you think that would entail a hardship?—I consider it to be entirely too high. The landlord pays most of it on the property I am agent over.

530. Is the rate high?—Yes, very high; 3s. or 4s. in the pound.

531. The rates in Binghamstown North have been 5s., 5s., 5s., 10s., 4s., 2s. 8d., and now 10s. Were these collected with difficulty?—Yes. I paid it myself to Mr. McAndrew out of my own pocket.

532. What is the great difficulty?—There are very heavy charges on the property?—It is an estate in clannery, and can hardly meet the charges.

533. Have you any recommendations to make as to the best way of meeting the difficulty?—Well, eventually it will be paid when I get in the rents from the tenants. I do not like to press them. As to this rate now fixed, I do not really think it could be met—certainly not on the estate I am connected with.

534. Why so?—It is altogether too high.

535. Is it not a first charge?—Oh, there are several. There is tithe-charge, income tax, and the loans from the Board of Works, and they are all first charges.

536. What do you consider actually the first charge?—Well, they all claim to be first charge—tithe-charge and income tax.

537. Mr. Robinson.—There was a 5s. rate in 1875, a 5s. rate in 1876, a 5s. 6d. rate in 1877, and a 5s. 10d. rate in 1878. Were you agent at that time?—No.

538. Therefore I suppose you cannot say how it was paid in those years?—No. I was agent from 1881.

539. Do you consider the condition of the people generally worse than it was in 1875 or 1876, when these rates were presumably levied?—I do not think it is very much.

540. Well, is the condition of the landlords?—Oh, I certainly think so.

541. Do you think the condition of the ratepayers worse than in those years?—Well, yes, I should say it is.

542. The greater proportion on your estate is paid by the landlords?—Yes.

My Estate
Thomas

Michael Gallagher, sworn.

543. Mr. Robinson.—Is Belmullet the rate in 7s. 4d. Is that higher than Belmullet will be able to bear?—I think it is; the rate is too high already.

544. But the rates for this union during the past few years appear to have been almost up to that, only for the Local Government Board grants. Do you remember the condition of the people in 1877 and 1879?—Yes, and they are much worse off now.

545. Mr. Robinson.—The rates were then 5s. 6d.

and 6s., and were collected then?—Yes, but then there was a good price for cattle. They were selling at £12, and you could not get £5 for them now. There is no price for oats. In Binghamstown North the tenants see all poor.

546. Mr. Robinson.—And they pay a fair proportion of the rates there?—Yes, they do.

547. Mr. Robinson.—Have you any suggestion as to how the rates could be met?—No, the rates are too high.

Mr. Michael
Gallagher

Mr. Charles Coyne sworn.

548. Mr. Robinson.—What electoral divisions are you interested in?—Binghamstown, Bangor, and some others.

549. What is your residence?—Well, I reside in the county Dublin.

550. Do you consider that people are less able to pay rate now than in 1875?—Yes.

551. Do you mean every class of ratepayer?—Yes.

552. Why do you think that?—Because every year is getting a great deal worse. For instance, we get only one-half for cattle, what we used to sell for, and wool has gone down to nothing. Grain is not worth

growing. You get a penny a stone for potatoes, and we are getting gradually worse, and if we have been able to pay 7s. 4d. or 6s. 6d. this is the last straw that breaks the camel's back.

553. Mr. Robinson.—You attribute the almost bankrupt state of the union to the fact that the rates have crushed it?—Yes. In Bangor there are only a few paupers, in Coolanone only one, and 5s. 8d. is what we have to pay.

554. Are your rents still over the valuation?—I think about even.

Mr. Charles
Coyne

William McAndrew, Rate Collector, sworn.

555. Mr. Robinson.—This paper is in your handwriting?—Yes.

556. What is the amount due on your collection?—£254 9s. 2d. in Belmullet division.

557. What was the amount of your warrant?—£700 11s. 11d. for the same division.

558. When is it dated?—11th of March, and delivered on the 25th.

559. What time is allowed for collection?—Eight months.

560. I see a list of arrears here. What steps have you taken to recover them. In the Electoral Division of Belmullet—there is Bridget Reilly, £2 11s. 9d. 1—She is summoned for that, and it is recoverable.

561. When was she summoned?—Last Saturday.

562. Why was she not summoned before that?—Well I was in hopes of getting it.

563. Did you ever summon her before?—No, the markets were so bad that there was no use taking proceedings.

564. Mr. Robinson.—Is that the first attempt you made?—She is a poor widow woman.

565. Mr. Robinson.—A. S. Bingham, £1 14s. 5d.—That is irrecoverable. It is waste.

566. Joseph McCormack, £3 11s. 3d.—That is waste land, and no effect.

567. Mr. Robinson.—Who is the landlord?—I summoned the receiver.

568. And what happened?—He defaced me, but it is not irrecoverable.

569. Why were you defaced?—I could not get a decree.

570. Pat Carey, £1 1s. 5d., and Dominick Carey?—I made several applications, and he could not pay.

571. And you took their word?—I am a judge of their means, and know they could not.

572. Mary Bingham, £8 15s. 9d.—In that case I made application to the receiver.

573. Do you expect to get it?—Yes. I sent it to

Mr. William
McAndrew

DEANLEY
—
Mr. William
McAndrew

the Local Government Board about it, and had it represented to the Land Commission.

574. John Dixon?—That case is settled.

575. John Barrett, £12 4s. 1.—That is recoverable.

576. James McCormack, £11 16s. 11d. 1.—A man named Boylan lived there. The landlord was getting nothing. I obtained decrees but there was nothing to get.

577. But the landlord is not a poor man?—He would not pay.

578. Where does he live?—Ardlacken.

579. Is he a solicitor?—No, his brother.

580. What answer did he make?—Mr. Carson is the receiver and it appears they were getting nothing by it for years.

581. Robert Carson, Tallow, £3 1s. 6d. 1.—That is recoverable. I mentioned him.

582. Why is it irrecoverable?—It is waste ground and this arrears commenced about ten years ago. It was due long before he took the land.

583. Mr. Redington.—Is it for land or houses?—Land.

584. W. J. Shaw, Tullow, £2 13s. 4d. 1.—That is an evicted holding, and the man went to America.

585. Who is the landlord?—Mr. Shaw is the landlord. The holding was waste. Mrs. Carson was the person receiving rent. I was directed to proceed at the next court day, but I am afraid there is not much use.

586. Major Short, £13 12s. 3d. 1.—Mr. Carson is the receiver, and he will pay it within a week.

587. Who was the receiver before Mr. Carson?—Mr. Thompson of Ballina.

588. Why did you not apply to him?—He left the employment.

589. Representatives of Rochford, £3 2s. 4d. What steps did you take in that case?—The woman died a short time ago, and the son is striving to make up the arrear. It will be paid very soon.

590. Thomas Davis, £3 7s. 4d., and Thomas Vaughan, £1 1s. 2d. 1.—Davis is irrecoverable, but the other is not.

591. Peter Monaghan, £7 1s. 9d. 1.—That will be paid soon.

592. Mr. Robinson.—Is he the contractor for the hospital?—Yes.

593. And why did you not make him pay?—He was to get money due to him by the board.

594. Did you ever take proceedings against him?—No, for he promised he would pay when he got the money from the board.

595. How long ago is that promise?—About a month.

596. Did you not apply in March or April, and on from that?—When it was promised I did not bring him to court.

597. Mr. Redington.—Did you know that the union was in debt, and that this money was due to the treasurer?—Yes.

598. And that the contractors were looking for their money?—Yes, but I thought as good to let him be as to sue him.

599. Who is John Carey with an arrear of £19 12s. 8d. 1.—I decreed him, and the decree was in the sheriff's hands but he failed to execute it.

600. Is it in his hands now?—No, that is a long time ago.

601. You put it in his hands?—Yes.

602. John Conway, £5 12s. 10d. 1.—He is in Belmullet; it is recoverable. It will be settled at the sitting of the Landed Estates Court in Dublin. This case will be the first claim.

603. Mary A. Donoghue, £1 16s. 10d. 1.—She said as soon as she was paid by the Board of Guardians she would settle. She had something to do for the Board.

604. Mr. Robinson.—Is she a contractor?—I am not sure.

Mr. Flynn.—No, she is not.

605. Mr. Redington.—Did you take no steps?—I gave her a six days' notice.

606. Further than that you took no steps?—No.

607. Mr. Robinson.—Is it not strange when you are told a cock-and-bull story, you are so easily satisfied, were you not aware that the Union was in debt at the time?—Yes, but she promised to pay the following Saturday.

608. Patrick Dickson, £1 5s. 6d.—Did you take any steps in that case?—Yes, I decreed him, but he absconded. But I will recover it; he was replaced by another.

609. James Mullooney, £5 10s. 6d. 1.—That was waste.

610. Anthony McAndrew, £1 18s. 9d. 1.—That is irrecoverable. It is waste.

611. Edward Richards, £31 8s. 9d. 1.—That will be paid. He was so busy he could not attend to the town.

612. And do you consider an excuse of that kind sufficient?—I felt sure of the money.

613. Pat Slattery, £4 10s. 3d. 1.—That is a waste house.

614. Representatives of A. Bean, £27 10s. 4d. 1.—There were proceedings against him, but they were lost.

615. Is it irrecoverable?—Yes.

616. James Bolly, £5 17s. 11d. 1.—The sale at Banger prevents his paying before Saturday.

617. Brian Carey, £11 16s. 1.—He has money against the Guardians, and will pay within a month.

618. Are you bound to consider all the claims against the Guardians?—No, but he is waiting for a fair.

Mr. Flynn.—There is a case in reference to the police barracks and contributions, and I wish the Commissioners would make some recommendation about them. They are due up to a recent period by Mr. Carson, and the receiver or agent refuses to pay further back than his own time. It appears we cannot detain this court-house or barracks.

619. Mr. Robinson.—You should put it to the heads of your section, so to what extent you should adopt. They are large sums. Is Brian Carey a poor man?

Mr. Flynn.—He said the Guardians owed him, and he was waiting. He paid a large amount of rates this year, and that is the balance.

620. And did you really consider that Brian Carey was unable to pay you £11 1s. I don't say that, but I could not get it.

621. George Carter, £27 1s. 2d. 1.—He owes a large amount of rates, and to-day Mr. Laing has given me a cheque for £20.

622. Mary Bingham, £10 2s. 3d. 1.—Mr. Thomas is the receiver.

623. Did you take proceedings against him?—No, the Guardians prevented it.

624. Patrick Gordon, £2 18s. 1d. Is he able to pay?—Yes.

625. Why did you not make him?—It is a balance, and he is a contractor here, and he complains of not being paid.

626. Bridget Rochford, £3 10s. 6d. 1.—She is dead, and it will be paid by the son.

627. John C. Walsh, £11 17s. 4d. What steps have been taken against him?—Mr. Redington's men, Mr. Rogers, is in receiving rents, and he said he would settle it before he goes out of town.

628. Do you think he will?—I am sure he will.

629. Is Mr. Walsh a poor man?—No.

630. Is he a Guardian of the Union?—Yes, when he comes in.

631. Is he aware that the Union is embarrassed?—He was complaining that he was not getting any rents—or the receiver.

632. Do you think Mr. Walsh could have paid that if it was insisted on?—Well, I do not think it would have been paid sooner no matter what steps were taken.

633. If you went to the Superior Courts with him do you think he would have saved himself?—It would not hurry the rate a bit.

634. Do you think he would have been able to pay up?—He is complaining of not being able to get any rents.

635. Have you any idea of what his rental is?—It is big, I don't know what.
 636. Is it £1,000?—I don't know.
 Mr. Robinson.—It is £2,000.
 637. Marcus Shakes, £5 8s. 5d. 1.—That will be paid.
 638. Thomas Newry, £1 2s. 5d. 1.—That is recoverable.
 639. John Lang, £3 10s. 10d. 1.—That is paid.
 640. John T. Murphy, £12 10s. 3d. 1.—Part of that is recoverable. It was due on the land when he got it.
 641. Is he liable?—Yes, for two years.
 642. Have you taken steps?—Yes, I have had office served and will have him at next court day.
 643. Michael Masterson, £5 9s. 4d. 1.—That is irrecoverable—it is waste.
 644. Anthony Walsh 1.—That is paid.
 645. P. J. Reilly 1.—Paid also.
 646. Representatives of A. Ross, £6 13s. 4d. 1.—The occupier was served with notice.
 647. Gerald Bingham, £4 1s. 3d. 1.—I distrained cattle yesterday for the amount.
 648. Do you always, in such cases, recover the full amount?—Yes.
 649. How many cattle did you seize?—Four.
 650. W. C. Morony, £3 1.—I met Mr. Morony and he was passing me when I spoke to him and he promised to pay.
 651. You do not press a man if he is not quite satisfied to pay?—Well, he is willing, and I do not like to bring a man to court on the motion.
 652. The McDermott, £1 6s. 5d. 1.—Part of that is paid and the rest will be soon.
 653. Did you take any proceedings against Mr. Higgins?—No.
 654. Mr. Reddy.—Will you wait until he is satisfied to pay?—No.
 655. Representatives of John Keating 1.—They are listed occupiers, they are served.
 656. Mary Lyons, £14 17s. 1.—That will be recovered.
 657. Henry Richards 1.—He will pay that.
 658. There is arrear there?—Yes.
 659. Rose Gallagher, £2 14s. 1.—That will be paid in a few days.
 660. Henry B. Knox, £2 11s. 3d. 1.—That is paid up.
 661. George S. Carter, £24 8s. 1.—I got a cheque for that.
 662. Denis Bingham, £11 0s. 4d. 1.—I gave the bill to the Guardians to forward to the Land Court and got no reply yet.
 663. How long ago is that?—About three weeks.
 664. Eleanor E. Bingham, £35 17s. (with arrears) 1.—Mr. Thomas is the receiver in that.
 665. What steps have you taken?—The same as in the last case.
 666. Michael Heffernan 1.—He has paid.

Peter Hugh O'Malley, Rate Collector, sworn.

Since I sent in my last return I have lodged today £30, and there is £21 8s. 10d. to be added since last return.

499. Mr. Reddy.—What is the amount of arrears now due?—There appears due £108 9s. 3d. Of that amount I have collected up to Tuesday last £38 17s. 11d., and since Tuesday £21 8s. 10d., that is £59 6s. 5d., that leaves £49 2s. 6d. outstanding. If that, I might mention, there is £106 outstanding of Poor Rate in respect of Carter's estate since 1852. It has been lost and is unrecoverable.

500. Were there some proceedings taken?—Yes; in 1852. The estate was in the Court of Chancery, and after Henry Carter died a receiver was appointed.—Mr. Scott—for some time. He collected the arrears and he died without accounting to the Court, nor did he pay the rate. Therefore the new lease not being valid there was no alternative but to write it off.

501. Could not the collector's surties be made

667. Patrick Curley, £2 10s. 5d. 1.—That is paid.
 668. William Lavelle 1.—I served him with a month's notice.
 669. James Rowan, £15 14s. 3d. 1.—The tenants are served with monthly notice.

502. When do you serve them?—They are summoned for next court day.

503. The Misses McDonnell, Sarge View, £3 15s. 4d. 1.—There is a dispute there about an island. The tenants are evicted and there are no gains out of it. It is a waste house and I can get nothing.

504. Are the Misses McDonnell depending altogether upon this?—I cannot say that.

505. In the event of their not paying what will you do?—I submitted it to the Board and did not get instructions.

506. When did you represent it to the Board?—About two months ago.

507. Have they paid the current rate?—Not on that, but on the rest of the estate.

508. Three months ago you brought it before the Guardians?—Yes.

509. And they took no steps?—They discussed it. It was on the arrears sheet as it is now.

510. Mr. Robinson.—Is it owing to the Board not liking to press on them that you did not?—Yes.

511. Have you the Collectors' Manual?—Yes.

512. The Misses McDonnell owe you £10 6s., what about that?—It is recoverable.

513. Have you added the current rate due?—No.

514. Why?—It was an oversight.

515. Frances Byrne, £0 11s. 5d. 1.—There is cattle unpounded for that.

516. John Ryder, £13 6s. 10d. 1.—He got an order from the Board. He complains that he got no rent; I served a month's notice on the occupier.

517. John Walsh 1.—His recover is in down-to-day.

Mr. Robinson.—It is impossible to imagine how the guardians could write up saying that the contractors would stop supply if they did not get a grant, when they did not make anything like a reasonable effort to recover those rates.

518. (O'Hara).—Are you a farmer as well as collector?—Yes.

519. So that you don't depend on your postoffice alone?—No; I am losing my whole time at it; this is a very bad time of year.

520. Do you think the people are going to run in and offer you the rates if you don't make some effort to get them?—I don't like to bring them to court it does not hurry them a bit more.

Mr. W. C. Morony.—My name has been mentioned and I wish to explain that I met this collector and he said to me "You had better pay your rate, the Commissioners will be on in a few days," and I answered, what was the truth, "That is the first time I heard about it."

Witness.—You gave me a very surly answer.

521. Rable 1.—Yes; but they turned out to be men of straw. The receiver owed £4,100 to the estate, and he neither succeeded to the estate nor paid the rates, and, as I say, the rates were men of straw. Nothing was countable, and the collector advised that any proceedings against George Carter would be abortive.

522. What about James Gallagher, £4 6s. 3d. 1.—That is an evicted holding and the land is waste, and I could not recover.

523. Who is the landlord?—Mr. Walsh. He is in occupation, and I do not see any way to taking proceedings against him. He does not live in this petty sessions district.

524. What about T. Gallagher, £11 6s.; Bridget Crystal, £19 10s., and Daniel Carey, £11 11s. 1.—Summons are issued.

525. Is Burroughs, John Healy, £1 10s. You got a decree against him?—Yes, and failed to detain.

526. Have you executed it?—At last petty sessions

Reverend,
 Mr. William
 McArthur

Mr Peter
 Hugh O'Malley.

SPRINKLING
Mr. Peter
Hugh
O'Malley.

I got a decree. Since then I have been confined to bed and not able to move about. He is an under-rated occupier. After serving the usual notice I got a decree, which is not executed.

687. William Irvine, £5 0s. 4d.—In that case proceedings by summons would be waste of time. I tried to distrain, and expect to get the money. He is the occupier.

688. Alexander McDonald, £1 18s. 1d.—That is waste. There are no effects. The landlord does not live here. He lives in lodgings with a man named Robert Irvine, and there is, I may say, no furniture.

689. Hugh Scanlan, £4 5s. 4d. 1.—He is wholly unable to pay.

700. Robert Hamard 1.—He is an absentee landlord. There is a new agent, who promised to pay.

701. Denis Bingham, £8 3s. 1.—He paid within the last few days.

702. Mervyn Pratt, £1 8s. 4d. is due in respect of the police barracks 1.—I have no power to go in and distrain.

703. Cannot proceedings be taken against him?—Yes, I wrote to him several times and he will not answer.

704. Did you bring the case before the Guardians?—No, but I may say that payment is expected.

705. H. E. Bingham, £6 10s. 4d. 1.—That has been paid.

706. Michael Gallagher, £2 2s. 8d. 1.—In that case he is in the occupation of some land, and there are no effects on it. Proceedings have been taken however.

707. Is he an occupier?—Yes.

708. Michael Gallagher, £2 17s. 1.—Proceedings have been also taken. He has a felony. There is a decree which I might register as a mortgage, but it would not hurry the proceedings. I may say that in every case there is no means of facilitating the collection that I have not adopted.

709. Charles Job, £21 2s. 9d. 1.—He lives in London, and his agent, Lang, has promised to pay. I met him yesterday and he promised to pay me.

710. William Bourne, £28 12s. 6d. 1.—In that case arrears have been going on for some years. The estate is in Chancery. I served the tenants and decreed the whole of them. A good many have paid. The amount was £60. I have taken the most active steps in every case, and I think Mr. Atkinson here will bear me out.

Mr. Atkinson.—If you want my opinion, I think you are very dilatory.

711. Mr. Robinson.—Walter Bourke, £12 3s. 1.—There is neither landlord nor agent on that estate, but I have received about half the amount due, and have decrees for the balance. I have decreed the under-rated occupier.

712. William Bourne, £14 1.—That is the same.

713. John O'Donnell, £1 15s. 9d. 1.—That has been paid.

714. Donistick O'Donnell, £5 15s. 1.—He appears in a few places. He has not the property in his own hands. There is a receiver appointed, and it is all the current rate and a few shillings of arrears. The receiver will settle that. Mr. Lang is the receiver, and I am satisfied with his statement.

715. James Caulfield, £3 3s. 4d. 1.—That is the Relieving Officer. I borrow there is some money due to him, and the case is all right. Last Saturday the Guardians proceeded to discharge the amount due to him.

716. G. S. Bourne, £1 9s. 3d. 1.—I proceeded against the tenants. There was £8 and a few shillings due, and the balance will be discharged.

717. Thomas Moran, £6 4s. 7d. 1.—That man is well able to pay. I received £3, I think.

718. Thomas Gervin, £ 19s. 1.—I failed to distrain in that case. No available assets.

719. Representatives of Rev. M. McNaughton, £1 9s. 10d. 1.—He is dead. I have gone against the tenants, and will recover the rate.

720. Anthony Tools, £3 14s. 5d. 1.—I failed to distrain.

721. Darby Malley, £3 12s. 1.—The same in that case.

722. James W. Parcell 1.—Mr. Rockford is the landlord, and he declined to pay. I have taken no proceedings against him, though satisfied I might recover the amount. The proceedings against him would be difficult. He is a short time in possession. It is only the current rate that is due.

723. J. Billington, £3 3s. 1.—That is an evicted holding. The land is now waste.

724. Thomas Reilly, £1 8s. 1.—He is a relieving officer, and there is money due by the guardians to him. I would ask some of the guardians for an expression of opinion as to how I have discharged my duty.

Mr. Robinson.—We can form an opinion as to that ourselves.

725. Do you think the people are less able to pay a high rate now than they were five years ago?—Yes, they are much worse off.

726. What is the amount of the rent?—The last time it was 1s 9d.

727. Mr. Robinson.—What is the total amount of your warrants?—£1,381 15s. 11d. I have collected this year as much rates as the current poor rate.

728. Of the amount outstanding what do you think irrecoverable?—I will give you a proper return of the amounts recoverable and irrecoverable in the collection. The great mistake made in not having the rate struck in proper time. Before I was appointed there seemed to be some irregularities in the collection. It should be struck at an earlier time. The balance left in my collection now is £185. If that was carried forward in arrears it would only keep the collection of the rate back fourteen or sixteen days.

E. N. Flynn recalled.

Mr. E. N.
Flynn.

729. Mr. Robinson.—What steps were taken by the guardians to urge on the collection of Mr. Andrew, the collector?—They had him repeatedly before the board of guardians, and resolutions were passed directing the collectors to be vigorous. But about three or four months ago they desired me to take steps against them unless they had the last closed within a certain time, but afterwards they countermanded that. For many reasons they did this—first, because it was dangerous to go to law, and next, that they did not think much of the arrears.

730. When the list of defaulters was brought before the guardians did they take proceedings?—The guardians invariably co-operated as to the service of the notices and applications for rates. I have not known a case where they refused.

731. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think it would be possible to reduce the establishment charges in any material way. In some unions they have the office

of clerk and master amalgamated?—Well, that is not altogether desirable.

732. Would it be possible for the clerk of this union to discharge the combined duties of master and clerk?—It might be possible, though I scarcely think it would do. I find it is as much as I can do. Of course I say it with all modesty, when I say that I do my work pretty fast, but it is as much as I can do to keep pace with it, and do the duties under the various Acts of Parliament.

733. How long are you generally at work?—Frequently from eight o'clock until ten at night.

734. Could greater economy be observed in the matter of the contracts?—No.

735. What is the system of taking the contracts?—The ordinary system.

736. Tenders are invited by advertisement?—Yes, including the "Ballina Heral" and "Western People."

737. Are the contracts higher than in the other unions?—In turf it was about 3d. a box; now it is not so much.

738. And milk?—Sevenpence a gallon.

739. Is it good?—I have no doubt it is.

740. Do you think the out-door relief could be reduced in any way?—Well, I don't know.

741. In administering the ordinary out-door relief do your guardians ask for a certificate from the medical officer that the person is unable to be removed?—Yes.

742. And in what other cases do they give it?—In chronic cases—cases of persons who would be likely if they entered the house never to leave it.

743. Is the ordinary out-door relief diminishing?—Yes.

744. What do you attribute it to?—I cannot exactly say.

745. Is it that the work-house test is more strictly applied?—I cannot say. There has certainly been some change in the times, though from the evidence given here times would appear to be getting worse. I cannot attribute it to a more rigorous application of the test.

746. Do you think insufficient out-door relief is given?—No.

747. Salaries and rations of officers are not high, I think?—I don't know what the salaries may be as compared with other places.

748. How does the amount of medical relief contrast as between the doctors?—Bangor is less than Binghamstown and Knockmalower.

749. Is the vaccination high?—No, it is low.

750. What would be the sum required to carry on the union, assuming there were no debts carried forward?—Last time it was £2,076.

751. Would you say roughly £2,500?—Yes.

752. What does that represent?—As 11d. in the £ would be £2,574.

753. Then the union could carry on at 11d. in the £, but you do not think any greater expenditure than that could be met without undue hardship to the ratepayers?—Quite so. The guardians here are generally inclined to go in for loans, and I am sure this union is more burdened than other unions by loans. You have the Belmont water works, the sewerage loans, Kilbane burial ground, Carr Cross burial ground, and so on. There is another dispensary district proposed for Bangor, and in this union such burials as dispensary licences should not be given.

754. What do you pay to the Board of Works in respect of Knockmalower?—£30. The doctor pays £10.

755. Is it in contemplation to erect another dispensary residence in Bangor?—Yes.

756. Have you any suggestion to make as to economy that might be effected?—Well, I would suggest that the guardians restrict themselves in the way of borrowing.

757. Can you account in no way for the reduction of out-door relief?—Is it that the guardians are rather supplied by the condition of the union?—Yes, at the Binghamstown they seem to recognize their position, as as not to give ordinary out-door relief, contrasting it of course with previous times.

758. Any increase in the year of unusual poverty would bring the rate over 4s. 11d. in the £.

759. Have you any idea of the average cost?—3s. 8½d. I think.

Mr. O'Malley (collector).—In summer, '65, 1s. 11½d.; spring, '66, 1s. 9½d.; present cost, 1s. 4½d.

Witness.—Now that the seed rate is gone, I think about £40 or £50 might be taken off that head.

760. Do you consider that much of the seed rate will be irrecoverable?—Yes, I believe a great deal of it will be.

761. Because people left the country?—Yes, and subsequent occupancy raises questions.

Mr. Mr. Atkinson.—As far as I can see I must say that the guardians are very extravagant. Under the Medical Charities Act a sum of £315 a year is spent

on medical officers; and when we know our valuation is only £10,000, and that unions valued at ten times that do not pay much more, I think we should look to it.

762. Mr. Robinson.—But you must not leave out of the calculation the population and the poverty of the people.

763. Mr. Atkinson.—A case of death occurred some time ago because of the medical officer not being able to attend, and in consideration of this one-half the salary is paid by the Government.

764. Do you consider that the out-door relief is as low as it possibly can be under the circumstances?—I think it requires to be greatly watched, for there is great shame in it, and I have seen some in other unions.

765. Is it properly watched in this union?—No.

766. Could you give an instance of persons receiving it who were not entitled to it?—There was one such case, in which the relieving officer insisted on giving it.

767. What relieving officer?—Reilly. I may say I am only a short time in the union, and do not travel much about.

768. Can you suggest any material reduction in the expenditure to enable the union to be carried on with a less rate than 4s. 11d., which the clerk said was necessary?—There are, the establishment expenses might be lowered.

769. What salaries would you reduce?—Well, I would be glad to amalgamate the clerk and master. Indeed for some weeks the two offices were held by one.

770. What is the master's salary?—£40.

771. And the clerk's?—£80.

772. That is £120 altogether?—Yes, and by amalgamation we would have about £30 of it.

773. You could not do without hospital nurses?—Well, there is the nation, who acts as nurse now.

774. What is the salary of the hospital nurses?—Lately it was £16 a year and milions. She resigned, and then the nurses got £30 a year, which, I think, an excessively high salary for this union to bear.

775. The doctor is not very highly paid?—Considering that he has the dispensary, and gets £115, he gets this £50 for very little, and I suppose between everything, it is over £200 a year. He seems to me to be the best-off man in the district—keeps his home and yacht, and so on.

776. Do you think you could do without him as workhouse medical officer?—I think he might be got cheaper.

777. Less than £10 a year?—Yes, £30 would be enough for this union.

778. Well, you could not do without the porter?—No, he is rather a decent sort of man, and does his business better than many others do.

779. That is about £80 you would save, so you would have a saving reduced by about 2d. down to 4s. 9d., if you carried out those changes; would the officers remain at these reduced salaries?—I could not say.

780. And do you think you would get efficient officers to take their places if they resigned?—Yes, in some respects much more efficient officers.

781. In the event of Dr. O'Connor declining, could you get the work done for £30?—But he gets £115 as dispensary doctor, and there ought to be a reduction when a man has the two offices and his house is so near.

782. Now, as to the reduction of 2d. in the £, do you think that for an average rate of 4s. 9d. the guardians could carry on well?—I think an average rate of 4s. 9d. would be too high.

Mr. Coyne recalled.

783. Mr. Robinson.—Do you consider the rate of 4s. 9d. could be collected without any hardship?—No, I do not think it collectable without hardship.

784. Would you advocate a reduction of the staff?—No, I know nothing about the staff, and if there is only a saving of 2d. in the £ by making the reduction, I would not be in favour of making them.

BELMULLET.

Mr. Jervis.

I am a ratepayer in Glencoe. I do not see any papers charged to that electoral division, and no relief from the house; and from the estimates mentioned to-day, we are rated at or up to 5s. 6d. in the £, and I do not see where it goes to.

783. Mr. Robinson.—There is £1 for out-door relief; £38 for establishment charges; £34 for Medical Charities Act; £15 for registration, and altogether £84. Do you think 5s. 6d. at a rate would be a hardship?—Yes.

784. Is a rate of 4s. 10d., in your opinion, a hardship?—Yes, as a union rating it would be.

785. Would you advocate a reduction of 2d. 1?—That is nothing.

786. You think it would have no effect?—No, we are not in a position to pay it.

Andrew C. Joynt sworn.

787. Is there any change you would recommend?—No; I find from all the charges that our rating will be up to 14s. or 15s. 6d. in the pound for all purposes, and I do not see how we can exist, contracting that with my valuation.

788. How much could be paid without undue hardship?—Between 2s. 6d. and 3s. in the £ would be fair. I do not see how we could exist on anything more than that.

789. Could you suggest any means by which such a result as that decreased rating could be brought about?—The union should be amalgamated or abolished. I do not see how we can support it.

The inquiry was then adjourned until the next day.

Nov. 17, 1886.

SECOND DAY, WEDNESDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 1886.

BELMULLET UNION.

The Commissioners resumed the inquiry at eleven o'clock.

The Rev. Henry Hansen, R.P.—Before proceeding with the ordinary business of the inquiry, and taking further evidence, I wish to bring before the Commissioners a matter somewhat personal to myself; although, as I understand, it is with reference to a branch of the inquiry, which may be considered to have been closed.

Mr. Robinson.—We are quite prepared to hear you.

The Rev. Mr. Hansen.—It is simply this, yesterday I made a statement to the Commissioners to the effect that one of the officers of the Union supplied a certificate that certain implements ordered by the Board had been delivered, and that they were paid for on the strength of that certificate, though, in point of fact, these implements had not been delivered. The Relieving Officer was examined here, and the last answer he gave, as well as I remember, was to the effect that all the implements ordered by the guardians had been delivered, with the exception of four bars, and I think he said a pick-axe. Now, as a matter of fact, pick-axes are in this house, which have been delivered within the last eight or nine days. They are perfectly new, so much so, that even the handles have not been put into the heads; and they have been delivered here, I understand, not by the Relieving Officer, but by the party to the contract for them; and that this took place after the attention of the Relieving Officer had been called to his certificate by the acting clerk.

791. Mr. Robinson. (to Mr. Flynn, the Clerk).—How much could you state is due to Mr. Murphy, the contractor, on this account?

Mr. Flynn.—£6 12s. 9d.

792. Did the Relieving Officer sign the certificate?—No; that was not exactly how it was. I asked him did he get the implements all right, and he replied "yes." According to the plan adopted he cannot possibly escape the responsibility of the irregularity, because, according to the course adopted by the Board, he was debited with the number of implements he got. Against these were put what he actually delivered to the workhouse, and returned the balance as a deficit which was to be stopped from his salary until he delivered the balance.

793. Mr. Robinson.—That appears to have been all right?

Rev. Mr. Hansen.—I understood that the delivery took place within the last eight or ten days.

794. Mr. Robinson. (to Mr. Flynn).—When was the £6 12s. 9d. paid to Mr. Murphy?

Mr. Flynn.—It has not been paid yet.

795. What has been paid?

Mr. Flynn.—£19 14s.

796. On what sort of certificate was that money paid?—It was on the verbal statement of the Relieving Officer.

797. £6 12s. 9d., the balance, is the balance he claims payment of?—Yes.

798. When were these things represented by that sum of money delivered into the workhouse?—I cannot say.

799. Have they, as a matter of fact, been delivered?

—That I cannot say; the Master would be a better authority.

Patrick Fitzpatrick, Workhouse Master, sworn.

Mr. Patrick Fitzpatrick.

800. Mr. Robinson.—What tools have you in the workhouse at present?—Fourteen pickaxes from Mr. Murphy, thirteen barrows, some crowbars—seventeen from Mr. Nolan—fourteen pickaxes from Mr. Caulfield, two barrows, and four crowbars.

801. How were these delivered to you?—The Relieving Officer brought them in a cart.

802. The whole of them?—Yes.

803. Mr. Robinson.—In the case of Caulfield were they brought in the same way?—Yes, the whole of them.

804. And of Reilly?—Yes, also brought in on three occasions.

805. By the Relieving Officer himself?—Yes, he accompanied them.

806. Has nothing been delivered since?—I mean recently—any within the last week or fortnight?—No. I had nothing delivered from Mr. Murphy's shop—that is, I cannot say that they came from Mr. Murphy's shop—but Mr. Reilly told me that nine pickaxes were delivered, and as a matter of fact they were.

807. When were these nine pickaxes delivered?—On last Thursday week.

808. And where were they delivered?—Here.

809. Were all these delivered at the same time?—That last batch were delivered on the one day. On the 2nd of September I find Reilly delivered nine pickaxes, two crowbars, and two hand-barrows.

810. What was the next delivery?—I have not the

date of the work, but it was in about a week, and there were then five picks, three crowbars, and two hand-bayonets, and these were delivered by Mr. Sheridan. That completed the lot so far, and the balance were delivered, I think, on last Thursday week, which, I think, was the 4th of November.

811. Had all these implements been used?—No. There were four pickaxes in Reilly's case that had been used. There were nine new ones, and a good many of the other implements were not used. Nine of the pickaxes were without handles in them.

812. Were the hand-bayonets used?—Yes.

813. And the two crowbars?—Yes.

814. And the four pickaxes?—Yes.

815. They were all delivered on the 4th of November or thereabouts?—Yes.

816. Were these delivered to you by the Relieving Officer himself?—Yes; he accompanied the cart.

Thomas Reilly, Relieving Officer, recalled.

822. Mr. Robinson.—You have heard the evidence of the Master of the Workhouse?—Yes.

823. Is what he states correct?—I have no doubt; and I may say I have receipts, and can produce them, saying that I had everything right.

824. How does it come that you made separate deliveries of the tools?—Because I had not them all gathered at the same time. There were a great number of them that were out at use that I found it hard to gather together.

825. But is it not strange that two months should elapse before you delivered the last batch of these tools?—Yes; the last batch was on the 28th October—I think that is the date.

826. The Master, Patrick Fitzpatrick?—Yes; that is the date.

827. Mr. Robinson.—And how do you account for that—for all that time elapsing?—Because I went several times amongst the people to gather up these implements, but I found it impossible.

828. But as to the new ones; where did you get them?—At Mr. Murphy's.

829. Did you get them the day you delivered them?—Yes, I did; because I had them always stored there, and I had no other certain place to take them to, and thought it safer to leave them there in store, as I had no other place to keep them, and it was more convenient.

830. Were your instructions from the Board of Guardians to get a certain number from Mr. Murphy, or to get what was required?—It was to supply a certain number of picks and crowbars.

831. What was the number?—First, twelve pick-

817. What cart was it?—I do not know, but I understand he got them that day in Murphy's shop.

818. What did he say?—He stated that he was now bringing the balance of the tools which had been ordered, and which had not so far been delivered.

819. Did you bring that before the Board?—Yes, I did. On the same day the matter came before the Board. I find from my journal the Board called upon the Relieving Officer for an explanation, and Reilly stated the quantity which he had taken from Murphy's, and then the account was certified.

820. I suppose that account was furnished to the Clerk of the Union?—It was.

821. Was any certificate attached to it?—I saw no certificate.

822. Was the contract made with Mr. Murphy for the whole amount?—I am not aware of that.

Mr. Flynn.—No contract was made.

axes and twelve crowbars. The second order was some more pickaxes and six crow, and a few barrows—five, I think.

831. And did you make any representation to the Board of Guardians that you did not require these other nine pickaxes, and that they were still stored in Murphy's?—No; I did not, thinking every day I might want them. I made applications to the Board and could not get an order to get the picks.

832. When did the work cease?—On the 5th of June, for two weeks.

833. But what was the last day when all the people were taken off the works?—I cannot give the exact date.

Mr. Flynn.—It was the 28th of July.

The Witness.—That date is correct.

834. Mr. Robinson.—From the 28th July. I presume you got no order after the work ceased for additional pickaxes?—No.

835. And between the 28th July and the present time you made no mention to the Guardians that you had some unused implements at Murphy's?—No; all they wanted was to have them collected in.

836. But did you intimate to the Guardians before paying the cheque to Mr. Murphy that there were a certain number not required in the order and lying there at Murphy's?—No.

837. Would it not have been at least a fair thing to have done?—I did not think of doing so, because I did not understand it properly.

838. How many implements were got altogether in your order?—Thirty-six, I believe.

William J. Murphy sworn.

839. Mr. Robinson.—You are the son of John J. Murphy, the contractor for tools?—Yes.

840. For how many?—Thirty-six pickaxes, twelve crowbars, and six barrows, I believe.

841. Were they all supplied together?—No, in "drifts and drabs," in small lots of two, and three and so on, and nine on the 28th of October—I think that was the date.

842. You think nine were supplied on the 28th of October?—Yes, or thereabouts.

843. Were those nine included in the number which Mr. Murphy was called on to supply to the Guardians?—I believe so.

844. Has he yet sent in his claim for the nine?—Yes, but it has not been paid.

845. Where did he send in the claim for the nine?—Some time ago. The orders were given for these tools and I spoke to the Relieving Officer to take them away, he said "what is the use?" I said, "I won't have them here for if they are not taken away before

the works are finished all that are left on my hands may be deducted from my account, and I will lose the sale of them."

846. Did you buy them specially?—Yes.

847. Where?—In Dublin. I asked him to take them for if they were left on my hands they would be deducted from the account.

848. What was the date of the order for these tools?—I do not know. It was May or June.

Mr. Flynn.—It was July, '86 for some of them.

849. Mr. Robinson.—What was the amount ordered then?—£1 7s 1½d; they were for works at the Workhouse Hospital.

Witness.—Reilly's orders were for thirty-six altogether, twelve and twenty-four; there was some difficulty and I refused because the twenty-four order, I thought, was Council's, and I supplied him with four more than the real order and Reilly with four less.

850. You supplied no more than the Guardians

RELUCTANT.
Mr. Patrick Fitzpatrick

Mr. Thomas Reilly

Mr. William J. Murphy

FRANKLYN.
Mr. William
J. Mayhew.

had ordered 1—No, except in this way, four less to Reilly and to Canfield four more.

Mr. Flynn.—The first order was May, '85, the next in 10th May, '86, the next was 22nd May, '86. The orders are recorded on the minutes. The total order was thirty-two and thirty, and there was a trans-

position by which four of Reilly's were placed to Canfield.

Witness.—The reason of the delay was I could not get Reilly to take away these things, and it was not our cart supplied the nine. He brought a cart of his own.

Mr. J. A. Nolan (Relieving Officer) recalled.

Mr. J. A.
Nolan.

850. Mr. Redington.—You put in a paper with reference to Father Mannally as to the amount of relief distributed by him between the 5th June and the 19th June. Is this list correct?—Yes, the total amount was £88 15s 6d, during the fortnight the works were stopped, and 112 families relieved at a cost of £36 8s 1½d.

Rev. M. Mannally, &c.—I got £5 from another source and gave potatoes to that amount to ten families.

851. Mr. Redington.—When was that?—Early in the season.

Patrick Fitzpatrick (Master of the Workhouse) recalled.

Mr. Patrick
Fitzpatrick.

852. Mr. Redington.—You have furnished us with this return as to indoor paupers; is it correct?—Yes.

Mr. Peter O'Malley (Chairman of the Board of Guardians) sworn.

Mr. Peter
O'Malley.

853. Mr. Redington.—Do you live in the Union?—Yes.

854. And are, I presume, fully acquainted with the circumstances of the people?—Yes, fairly well.

855. Can you tell me in your opinion what would have happened if no relief set was passed, would the people have been able to pull through?—No, they could not without being relieved.

856. You attend regularly at the meetings of the Board?—Yes.

857. In March and April?—Yes.

858. Was there a great increase in the applicants for relief in those months?—Yes, a great increase.

859. When did that increase begin?—During the months of April and March.

860. There is a return from the clerk of the union showing that in March the number of cases was not very much greater than in February. The numbers are during the weeks of March—53, 63, 65, 65; and in February—45, 42, 43, and 61, for the four weeks. How do you account for that?—Well, they were not so badly off in March—it was increasing.

861. When did the distress reach its height?—June and July, perhaps.

862. Mr. Robinson.—Were you at the board meeting of the 3rd June?—I could not say that. I attended all those meetings I am sure.

863. I mean when the works were struck off—do you remember that day?—Yes.

864. Were you not afraid that if you suspended the works there would be a risk of the people starving?—Well, I was for holding on the works; but it was proposed to stop them, feeling that the Government was going to charge part of it on the rates of the union, and I found that the ratepayers could not pay any part of it, and the contractor refused to supply unless he was paid, and he could not be paid from the union, and unless the Government paid it the people could not pay.

865. Your personal opinion was that it was not a good policy to stop the relief works?—Certainly, that was my opinion, but we could not help it.

866. How did the people get on when the works ceased?—The clergy came to their assistance, and, were it not for that, the people would be very badly off indeed, during that time.

867. I see there were large numbers in receipt of relief. Is it your opinion that, on the whole, the relief was well administered, and that only the proper

persons obtained it?—I think it could not be done better.

868. Do you think that men with cattle and stock got relief?—Yes, some few did, for the markets were bad—there were no prices. They could not sell at any price. A man with a few head of cattle could not make sale of them, and they were as much in need of relief as people with nothing at all.

869. You could not look into each of these cases; but did you give instructions to have them fully investigated?—Yes, every day we gave those instructions.

870. Did the relieving officers attend the houses of these people?—Well, it was our instructions to them to visit their houses.

871. You have no reason to think they did not?—No.

872. Mr. Redington.—Were you aware of the large amount of money in excess of the grant which has been spent?—I do not know what the grant was.

873. Well, there is an excess of £400 over the grant. Do you think if you had known how much the grant was, you would have been able to keep your expenditure within that grant?—Well, no. In a case of necessity, even if it had to be met out of the rates, we would have to meet the case.

874. In fact everything spent was necessary?—Yes, so far as I am aware.

875. One other question, was there any pressure of out-door relief under the ordinary law, during the fortnight the relief works were stopped. I see eight additional cases where there were applicants who were refused out-door relief in that time. Do eight additional cases represent all the applicants for out-door relief who came before the board during that time?—I do not understand.

876. There were applications for relief made to the board during the time the works were suspended?—Yes, there were several applications every day—people craving for relief—but there was a resolution of the board, and we could not break through it.

877. Did you not give out-door relief under the ordinary law?—Yes, of course.

878. But did you also refuse it?—Yes.

879. In several cases?—Yes, in several cases we had to refuse it.

880. Under the ordinary law?—Yes, we did refuse it. We refused some cases. We had to refuse them there were so many applications.

880. Mr. Robinson.—Where do you reside?—At Binghamtown North.

881. Were you satisfied with the sufficiency of the inquiries made by Caulfield as to the condition of those in his own district?—I do not reside in that district, but it was our instruction to the Relieving Officer to visit the several cases and ascertain who was most in need.

882. Do you think you gave as little as you could, and exercised due economy?—Yes. It was too little in most cases.

883. Mr. Redington.—The Clerk made an estimate of the rates, and it would interest you to know that for Bangor the estimate is 6s. 5d. and for another division 5s. 11d., and so on: do you think these rates could be paid by the ratepayers?—In my opinion they could not.

884. What do you think the highest that could be paid?—2s. 6d. or 3s. is as much as could be paid or collected.

885. Mr. Robinson.—Why do you think they could not collect more than that?—Because the ratepayers could not pay it.

886. Even in good years?—No.

887. Is not the majority of the rate paid by the landlords?—Yes; they pay half of it, no doubt, and in the case of wasted crops the landlord is bound to pay the entire.

888. What would you say was the limit beyond which the ratepayers could not pay?—2s. 6d. or 3s.

889. You live at Binghamtown North?—Yes.

890. The rates there in previous years, '75, '76, '77, and '78 have been 6s., 5s., 5s. 6d., and 3s. 10d.?

891. Was not that rate collected?—Well, I had not much knowledge of the union at that time.

892. Comparing the present time with that period, '75 to '78, would you say it was less easy now or then for all classes of ratepayers to pay?—It is more difficult. The markets are bad, the prices for cattle and for crops bad, and no price for oats.

893. How would you suggest meeting the liability of the union?—I do not see, unless the Government come to our aid and pay off the present debt.

894. But would it be fair to the taxpayers of the country at large to ask them to pay a rate in aid of Belmullet Union?—Well, no; but I see no way they can do it themselves.

P. H. O'Malley, Rate Collector, recalled.

907. Mr. Redington.—Did you make out a return of arrears for us since yesterday?—Yes; setting out the totals accurately.

908. And marking what portions are irrecoverable

894. Now, as Chairman of the Board, do you think there is any change that could be made without injury to the poor that would reduce the rates to what you consider would be collectable—anything in the way of economy of the staff?—I do not see how you could, unless you amalgamate this union with Baffins.

895. Is that desirable?—Yes, unless the Government come to our aid.

896. Every year?—Well, this year especially.

897. The Clerk stated that the rate requisite to meet the ordinary expenditure was about 4s. 11d., or 4s. 8d. or 4s. 10d.: would there in your opinion, be a difficulty in meeting that in ordinary years?—Yes, I think so.

898. Would it cause hardship to the people?—Yes.

899. Do the Guardians expect that the Government will be able to give every year a grant in aid, bearing in mind that it requires an Act of Parliament to do that?—Not every year, but now that the union is in debt, if the debt was paid by the Government they might be able to carry on for the future.

900. But if all debts were wiped off it would require 4s. 9d. or 4s. 10d. to carry on, and could you collect that?—No; it would be too high for the ratepayers of this union.

901. As Chairman of the Board, have you any suggestion to make as to the future prospects of the union?—No; I have no recommendation to make. I do not see what we could do.

902. Mr. Redington.—As to the administration of the Poor Relief Act, did the Relieving Officers submit their application and report back every week?—Yes.

903. And were the applications put forward ever rejected?—Yes.

904. And you checked them in the usual way, I presume?—Yes.

905. That occurred every week?—Yes. They met sometimes and ordered four weeks' relief when we saw that we could not avoid it; but when that order expired we went over it again and had it renewed or not.

906. Mr. Robinson.—It occupied a great deal of your time?—Yes, three days a week regularly we could not rule the books. It would be enough to rule one Relieving Officer's day and take you up to ten at night.

RECALLED.
Mr. Peter
O'Malley.

Collected
O'Malley.

Peter O'Malley (Chairman) recalled.

910. Mr. Redington.—Do you remember striking off the names of recipients of out-door relief during the first month?—Yes.

911. Were any considerable number so struck off?—I could not say. Some were.

912. On what ground?—We did not consider that they were in need.

913. Were these persons working on the Public Works?—Yes; we found there were persons not in need and we struck them off.

914. How did they get on?—Well, at first the people flooded in, when they found relief was to be given, and the Relieving Officer was not able to check them properly.

915. I find there was no reduction until 5th of June, when there was a reduction of 1,300 persons. Did it strike you that the Relieving Officer had done his

duty when you struck off all these persons who had been on for the previous month?—I could not say.

916. Mr. Robinson.—Did it occur to you, so you had to take off these persons who had been put on, as it is stated, chiefly because the Relieving Officers could not make sufficient inquiry into each case—that if you had a larger number of Relieving Officers and a better organized system that you would have saved £500 or £600, as the result of having a larger staff?—I do not think you would have saved that amount.

917. But you would have saved a considerable sum?—Well, no doubt.

(*Witness Mr. Andrew handed in corrected return of rates collected and uncollected.*)

Mr. Redington.—We will now proceed to deal with the question of amalgamation or change that may be proposed and will be glad to hear any evidence.

Mr. Peter
O'Malley.

Peter O'Malley (Chairman) recalled.

EDMUNDSON.

Mr. Peter O'Malley.

918. Mr. Robinson.—How long have you resided in this union?—For the last twenty years.

919. Do you remember when the original Ballina Union comprised Belmullet, Killybeg, Ballina?—No.

920. Were you aware that that was the case?—I was not.

921. Do you know the class of people who generally receive relief in the workhouse here?—Fairly well, I do.

922. What class of people are they by whom the workhouse is principally used?—They are the usual class of destitute poor people.

923. Has the population been reduced since the unions were divided?—I cannot say as to that.

924. Have you made any observation as to the possible or likely results of amalgamation?

925. You consider amalgamation would be desirable?—Yes.

926. Do you think so, because there would be financial advantages to the union?—Yes; for this union would never be able to self-support itself, and the Government should give help or there should be amalgamation.

927. You live at Binghamstown North?—Yes.

928. What is the distance between the most populous district in Binghamstown North and this place?—About six miles.

929. I mean of the extreme village in the Mullet?—Oh, about fourteen miles.

930. How far is Ballina?—About thirty-one Irish miles.

931. Do you know the far end of the union at all?—Yes.

932. What is the distance of the farthest point of Knockaduff from Belmullet?—Twelve miles.

933. How would you go?—By the North Coast road.

934. Do you know Deeshooma?—Yes.

935. Is it populous down by the Coast Guard station?—Yes.

936. How far is Deeshooma?—Ten miles.

937. And would you go through Bangor?—Yes.

938. How far is Deeshooma from Bangor?—Twenty-one miles.

939. How far is Deeshooma from Belmullet?—About thirteen miles Irish.

940. Is there any considerable population in Shakin or Glenco?—In Glenco there is.

941. What is the distance between that and Ballina?—One part is about twenty-one, and another about six miles less; and fourteen miles from Curick.

942. Are you in favour of outdoor relief as distinguished from relief administered in the workhouse?—Of course, I approve of it.

943. But do you think outdoor relief is better than relief in the workhouse?—Oh, I think it would be better to relieve them in the workhouse.

944. It would be a better test of their destitution?—Yes.

945. In the event of the workhouse being removed to Ballina, would there not be an extension of outdoor relief?—Yes.

946. And would not that increase the rates to a certain extent?—Well, most likely.

947. Would it be possible to apply the workhouse test without hardship in the event of the workhouse being in Ballina?—I do not understand.

948. If a person applies here to the Relieving Officer, and says, "I want outdoor relief," and if he considers he is not deserving of it, not being really destitute, he orders him the workhouse, and if the applicant does not care in it, it shows he is not really destitute—now, would not that Relieving Officer have a difficulty in offering a ticket for the Ballina workhouse?—Yes.

949. He would not like to take the risk?—No.

950. And would there not, therefore, be loss of a test?—Yes.

951. And would not this lead to an extension of outdoor relief?—Yes.

952. What is the most distant part of Belmullet Union from Belmullet Workhouse?—I do not know exactly. It is Belderrig, I think.

953. How are the destitute removed from that to the workhouse?—There is a contractor for the purpose.

954. An ambulance I suppose?—Yes; and a contractor.

955. What is about the distance?—Twenty-one or twenty-two miles.

956. You have no way of getting here except by the ambulance?—No.

957. I take it your opinion in favour of amalgamation is merely a suggestion of despair, because you do not see how the workhouse can swim under existing circumstances?—Yes.

958. Would it be possible to remove paupers from Binghamstown South with a proper ambulance to Ballina?—Yes; but you would have to pay the contractor more.

959. And that would increase the taxation?—Yes.

960. Would you think if you had a saving of 2s. in the £ by amalgamation, it would be sufficient to justify you making the increased hardship to the poor?—It would be a saving to the rates.

961. If the saving was only 1s. would you be in favour of amalgamation?—No.

962. If the saving was only 1s. would you be in favour of amalgamation?—No.

963. If the saving was 1s. 6d. would you?—I would think it desirable; 1s. 6d. in the £ would be a great saving.

964. Do the Visiting Committee meet very often?—Once a month.

965. Do they go through the house?—Occasionally.

966. Now, if a change were made to Ballina, how often would you—a Guardian residing at Binghamstown—attend at Ballina?—Not very often.

967. Do you often go to Ballina?—Occasionally.

968. Is Ballina the place that supplies Belmullet?—Yes.

969. What mail communication is there?—A mail car—an unreserved car.

970. How often does it run?—Once a day.

971. And how long does the journey occupy?—Seven hours.

972. What is the fare?—Six shillings.

973. So that if you wished to attend the Board at Ballina it would be necessary for you to start the day before?—Yes; for the mail car does not get in until halfpast eight.

974. And what means have you of getting back?—You can't get back till next morning.

975. So that you would be two nights out?—Yes.

976. Would you approve of the idea of a resident in Ballina representing Binghamstown North?—Well, I can't say that.

977. However, it would be a great expense for people living in the most remote district of Belmullet Union, to attend a Board meeting at Ballina?—No guardian could afford it, except with remuneration.

978. And that, undoubtedly, would be one of the difficulties of transferring the workhouse there?—It would be the greatest difficulty.

979. And, I suppose, you would hardly trust the Ballina man to give the same attention to your interests as you would yourselves?—No.

980. I think you said you see no way of lessening the expenses of this establishment at present?—I do not see any, unless the Government assists us.

981. Do you not think that in the case of men who gave up their work to obtain official positions in this Union, it would be a very great hardship if they were forced to leave their positions and begin life over again?—Yes.

982. And would it not be only fair to separate such a man?—Yes.

983. Now, take the case of the Clerk—what would be a fair amount to give him? What is his salary?—I really don't know.

984. Can you give me any idea of what would be fair remuneration, by way of compensation, for him?—I could not say, except that he would be entitled to something.

985. The relieving officers would remain, because they would be officers of the Ballina Union, and the rate-collectors?—Yes.

986. So you would have no saving there?—No.

987. Do you think there should be a hospital here?—Yes, I do.

988. Do you think the majority of cases coming to the Bechnellet Workhouse are people who require hospital treatment?—Yes.

989. But the majority who come in now—are they persons requiring hospital treatment?—Yes.

990. And would it be safe to remove the workhouse to Ballina, and not have a hospital here?—I do not think so: we should have a hospital here.

991. You would then require a doctor and nurse?—Yes; we could not do without that.

992. So the officers you would have to compensate would be the Clerk, the Master, and the Matron; the Schoolmistress, Schoolmaster and Porter?—Yes.

993. Have you any superannuation salaries to pay at present?—Yes; I believe there is, the hospital nurse.

994. Anybody else?—Yes; Dr. Mulhany. Our old matron too, is superannuated.

995. As Chairman of the Board, your salary would be to give fair compensation?—Yes.

996. Then, there is the Chaplain, after all his years, you would give him something; what do you think he should get?—I could not form an opinion.

997. Are you aware whether the contracts in this Union for food, clothing, &c., are higher than in Ballina?—I don't know what they are in Ballina.

998. Well, they are somewhat lower in Ballina. If you were buying provisions, would you get them cheaper than in Bechnellet?—Yes.

999. So you would support your paupers more cheaply at Ballina than here?—Yes, I suppose so.

1000. Do you know what the average weekly cost is here of maintaining paupers?—I could not say.

1001. You think it absolutely necessary, in the event of an amalgamation, to establish an hospital here?—Yes.

1002. And if a better ambulance were established,

you think it would be possible to transfer the paupers?

—Yes.

1003. People do not think much of long distances here; they will walk, I believe, nine or ten miles to do shopping, and think very little of it?—Yes; but these paupers would not be able to walk that distance.

1004. Would it be possible to have contracts here at a lower price than they are now?—No.

1005. Do you get good material?—Yes; it is supplied according to sample.

1006. Do you think the poor here would prefer being relieved here or in Ballina?—Here.

1007. Do you think they would object to go to Ballina?—Well, I think they would, if they could do so.

1008. Mr. Roxington.—Could you suggest a way by which the applicants for outdoor relief could be brought to Ballina. Suppose there was an ambulance to bring them to Ballina would that meet the difficulty about the relieving officer not being willing to give tickets for the workhouse there?—I don't understand.

1009. Suppose the relieving officer had an ambulance at his disposal, and could send a person safely by it to Ballina, how would that work?—Well, badly, I am afraid, the distance is so great, they would hardly reach in a day. It would take two days in some cases, and would be very expensive.

1010. Is it your opinion that the workhouse test here is a perfect test of destitution?—It is very good.

1011. You never heard of a person dying rather than come into the Workhouse?—No.

1012. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think that as a rule they would make a very great deal of suffering before coming in?—Yes; and they try every effort before coming in.

1013. And no doubt that sometimes has an injurious effect, so far as their health is concerned?—No doubt, indeed. They do not like coming in until all fails.

1014. If outdoor relief was given, and the guardians looked closely after it, and if there was amalgamation, outdoor relief would be increased as you say—but if the guardians attended at Ballina would they not be able to see that it was properly administered?—The relieving officers look after that.

1015. But the guardians have the decision, and why do you say there would be an increase by amalgamation in the outdoor relief?—Because they would not go to Ballina except in cases of great necessity, and then there would be far more outdoor relief.

Mr. Charles M. Coyne sworn

1016. Mr. Roxington.—We have received a memorial which is in the following terms:—"We, the undersigned, inhabitants of Keshone, parish of Bangor and Erris, hereby express our strongest approval of the proposed amalgamation of the Bechnellet Union with that of Ballina, and truly believe that the change would be productive of the most material benefit to the distressed poor of this parish."—Signed "James Duncan, P.R., Edward McAndrew, Daniel O'Malley, &c."

Was there a meeting held at which that proposition was put forward?—No.

1017. Who was it proposed that of which the memorial is an expression?—The Rev. Mr. Duncan.

1018. Was it done at a meeting?—No. He mentioned it from the altar, and I did not know of the proposition until I heard him speaking.

1019. Is Father Duncan here now?—No.

1020. Have you talked it over with him?—Yes, I have, very slightly.

1021. What are your views in reference to the subject—do you think the proposed amalgamation would be desirable?—Well, certainly I think something in that direction is necessary. I should like to know why it is that we should be asked to pay £4. 8d.

in the pound in Goodenore district without a single pauper from that division living in the workhouse.

1022. Your idea is that the taxation is too high?

—Yes, for I would like to be informed where the £4. 8d. is going to.

1023. Your objection to the present system is a financial one?—Yes, you asked a question here with reference to a Workhouse test and in my opinion, if there was amalgamation the Workhouse test which would then be applied would be much more difficult.

1024. Yes, but perhaps it might be said that such a test would be a harsh one—I do not think harshness could be suggested if a person is afforded a comfortable way of travelling and if a proper ambulance is provided.

1025. But do you not think that the Relieving Officer has now an easy answer for a man who applies for relief when the Workhouse is only a few miles off, whereas if a man was really sick and the Workhouse was so far away as Ballina his feeling might influence him very much as to whether or not he should give him a ticket for admission to the Ballina Workhouse, might it not suggest a considerable difficulty?—Of course in these cases the Relieving Officer might err in judgment. There is one objection to amalgamation,

DESMOLLY.

Mr. Peter

O'Malley.

Mr. Charles

M. Coyne.

BEAUMELLE.
—
Mr. Charles
M. Cyren

and that I scarcely think that the Ballina Guardians would take a very particular interest in our affairs, and indeed I do not think they want to have anything to say to us, and I say that being a member of the Board myself.

1025. Would your proposition be to revert to the original form of the Union with Beaumelle, Ballina, and Killadea?—Yes, that would be of advantage.

1026. There is one Division in Dromore West, would you take that in?—I won't say that.

1027. Would it not be in your opinion a considerable hardship to the people living any at Binghamstown North, placed as they are so far away?—No, I scarcely think it, if they get a proper conveyance. If they are proper subjects for relief and there is a proper way of bringing them, I should say it would be quite as easy for them as to walk here as they often have to do.

1028. The Chairman of the Board said he would not recommend such a change unless an hospital was kept here?—I do not agree with that.

1029. But in the case of a man say with a broken leg, and of course requiring hospital treatment, who lived in Binghamstown North, you scarcely think that that man's health would be improved by his being brought so far as Ballina?—Oh, no! I do not want to apply the test so far as that, and I think there should be some means of meeting such a case.

1030. If so would not a small hospital here be such a means of affording temporary relief?—Well, after all, it would necessitate the doctor's expenses just the same as now.

1031. But it would be a charge against the three Unions?—Yes.

1032. So that instead of it being a charge as now against the ratepayers of this Union the expenses would be scattered over the three Unions at large and consequently diminished?—It is possible that some such arrangement might be made, but in any case some alteration in the present condition of affairs is absolutely necessary.

1033. Have you made any calculation as to the financial effect of amalgamation?—No.

Mr. John Nolan, Relieving Officer replied.

Mr. John
Nolan

1044. Mr. Robinson.—Do you know the population of Binghamstown North and South?—Yes, the population of Binghamstown North is 1,813, and Binghamstown South is 1,394.

1045. Is it a poor population?—Yes; they are generally poor through the whole district.

1046. What is the extent of their holdings, as a general rule?—From five to six acres, I should say, is an average.

1047. Have they any grazing "tunn," or what I might call perquisites?—Not in the South, in the North they have a few.

1048. Have they any resources except their holdings?—In the South they do make something as fishermen.

1049. Are there any fishermen in the North?—Well, there are some in Aghashan.

1050. Do they make help?—Yes, in the South, but not in the North, except in a very few places.

1051. What they make fishing and otherwise, does it suffice to keep them over the winter with any comfort?—They have a great struggle of it, anyhow.

1052. Do they dry the fish or keep it any way?—No, they bring it to Beaumelle and sell it there.

1053. Have they no means of drying it?—Well, they sell it, that is all I know.

1054. Do you think if they had increased appliances they would be able to develop this fishing industry?—Yes.

1055. Are they what you might call "born" fishermen?—Yes.

1056. Do they go outside the Mulllet to the deep sea?—They do.

1033. Would it not be fair and just to give superannuation to these officers at present employed and whose services would be dispensed with?—Yes.

1034. Would you best opinion that the amount of compensation should be assessed over the present Beaumelle Union or should be spread over the Union at large?—Over the Union at large.

1035. Upon what grounds would you ask other Unions to pay compensation to officers, who did them no service, for the loss of their salaries?—Well, no doubt, it would not be quite fair perhaps; but if these officers get suitable allowances it would only remain for their lives, and then we would have an end of it.

1036. Do you often attend the meetings of the Board?—No.

1037. Would you come and vote for compensation to the Clerk, say?—Yes.

1038. I understood you to say that you made no calculation as to the effect of amalgamation financially?—No. The simple thing that I go in for is to do something that will reduce the burden on the people, for I cannot see why we should pay heavy rates for absolutely nothing.

1039. Would you recommend amalgamation if the result was a diminution at the rate of 1s. 6d.?—Yes.

1040. You would not recommend it if the diminution was under one shilling?—No; it would not be worth while.

1041. You see no possibility of this union carrying on in its present position?—Indeed, I don't, nor does anybody else who knows anything at all about the place. As a matter of fact, we are in absolute bankruptcy.

1042. Yes, but if you got out of your difficulties, and started clear and free from debt, according to the Clerk's estimate you will be able to carry on by striking a rate of 4s. 11d. 1.—That is all very fine, but I do not think we will be able to pay anything like 4s. 11d. We have never been able to pay our rates.

1043. That is not quite so, for you have always paid your rates; but probably what you mean is, that it has become more and more difficult to get them?—Exactly. In my opinion we are getting worse and worse.

1055. What sort of boats have they got?—They have canoes.

1056. Are these people with whom in bad years you have had many difficulties?—Yes; sometimes there is a difficulty with the fishermen, but they are all very poor. The "Tip" fishermen in Beaumelle electoral division used to depend wholly on the fish, but the population is largely reduced—reduced by one-half; so far as Inishkeee people are concerned, it is their principal industry.

1057. How many electoral divisions have you?—Three—Beaumelle, Binghamstown North and South.

1058. Where is the greatest poverty during these periodical depressions?—In Binghamstown South they suffer most.

1059. Do you see any sign of increasing prosperity in any of these three electoral divisions?—Well, the people are very badly off, chiefly on account of the potato crop, except in Inishkeee and Fallmore.

1060. What division gives you most trouble of the three, so far as your duties are concerned?—Beaumelle used; Binghamstown South does now.

1061. In Binghamstown South are the people scattered here and there?—Yes, in a village.

1062. Where is the most poverty in your district?—In Fallmore.

1063. That is a populous district?—Yes.

1064. Is the road bad?—No; it was made under the Relief of Distress Act.

1065. You can drive over it?—Yes.

1066. What is the population of Fallmore village?—About thirty-five families.

1066. Could you tell the extent of their holdings?
—From five to six acres.

1067. Are they people you have to give much relief to?—Frequently.

1068. Do they fish?—Yes.

1069. How long would it be to drive to Balmullet from Fallmore?—An hour and a half or two hours.

1070. What sort of a vehicle is the workhouse ambulance?—A new one.

1071. With good springs?—Yes.

1072. Does one horse take it?—Yes, a good one.

1073. Would a good horse take it thirty miles?—A good horse would—it is light.

1074. If you sent to Fallmore in the morning for a person, you would have to stop the night in Balmullet before going on to Bellins?—Yes.

1075. Do the Fallmore people give you much trouble?—Well, not much trouble, but I find them to be the poorest.

1076. As a rule, have you had Fallmore people applying for relief?—Yes.

1077. How do you receive applications: do they send a message?—Yes.

1078. Do you know the circumstances of all the people in Fallmore?—Yes, I think so. I may say they are all wretchedly poor.

1079. Do you know the names of most of them?—Yes.

1080. And when you get an application you know of their condition enables you to know what sort of a case it is?—Yes.

1081. When they are brought to the workhouse who goes in charge of them?—The constable, Peter Walsh.

1082. Where is the ambulance kept?—At the workhouse, in a shed.

1083. Is the Fallmore road under contract by the county?—It is under contract so far as Blackhead—the Carrigish Station.

1084. How far is Tannan from Fallmore?—Two short miles.

1085. How much of the road to Fallmore is not under contract?—A mile and a half.

1086. How was it repaired?—It was under the Relief of Distress Act.

1087. And it is likely to last?—Yes, it was the best job I had done.

1088. Does the sea break over it?—No, it is away from the sea.

1089. Has any application been made to the county to keep it up?—No.

1090. Would they do it?—I am sure they would. There is good stuff along the road, and it would cost very little.

1091. Is it a hilly road?—Except one bit of it, no.

1092. You say it would take an hour and a half to come here?—Well, say two hours. I could go in an hour and a half with a fast horse.

1093. Now, in Binghamstown North, what is the most remote village you have?—Cross would be from the town.

1094. Is there a large population at Cross?—At one portion of it there is.

1095. Is the road between Binghamstown and Cross a good one?—More than half a mile is very bad.

1096. Could an ambulance go along it?—Yes; but it is very bad.

1097. How far is Cross to Balmullet?—About four miles.

1098. In Balmullet, what is the most remote village?—Ballygum.

1099. How far is that?—About seven miles.

1100. And you must in all these cases come through Balmullet to get to Bellins?—Well, from Ballygum you might cross by boat to Inver.

1101. Is it shorter?—Yes.

1102. Is it dangerous?—Yes, it is.

1103. Would you take a sick person that way?—No.

1104. Where would you strike the main road?—At Blake's place, at Inver.

1105. If you were going to Bellins, what road would you take?—The Ranger road.

1106. And on the whole, would it be more satisfactory to go through Balmullet?—Yes.

1107. If you were going from Ballygum to Bellins, would you go through Balmullet?—Yes; but to do it in the day, you would want to start very early and have a change of horses.

1108. Now, in your work getting lighter, as has it been on the increase?—It has been considerably lighter within the last few months.

1109. And as compared with the last few years?—Considerably lighter.

1110. With regard to your procedure, do you find it necessary to apply the workhouse test when people apply to you for provisional relief?—In some cases. There are a good many cases where they apply and really do not want it.

1111. And then you offer a ticket for the workhouse, I presume?—Yes, as a test.

1112. If the workhouse was so far as Bellins, would you have some compensation in applying that test?—In case I would be doubtful, I would rather have a doctor's certificate first.

1113. But if an ordinary person applied to you—not a case of sickness at all—and said he was destitute, you would have no compensation about giving him a ticket for the workhouse, even if it was so far as Bellins?—No; not if I had a comfortable van and they were not sick.

1114. Now, would a railway from Bellins to Balmullet minimize your difficulty in making up your mind on the question of amalgamation?—Yes; there would then be no difficulty.

1115. And be of great advantage?—Yes. All parties wish to have it.

1116. If there was a railway there would be no difficulty or danger in removing the destitute poor?—None, except in an extreme case of sickness.

1117. Would you consider it necessary to have an hospital here?—Yes, for some cases.

1118. Is the small fever hospital in repair?—Yes.

1119. Would that suffice?—I am sure it would.

1120. For the cases under the doctor's charge temporarily?—Yes.

1121. If the railway was here, would that be necessary?—Well, it would; there will always be a chance of some need for it. The railway is the great thing.

1122. So that, as I understand, you think the railway would remove much of the difficulty in the way of amalgamation?—Beyond doubt.

1123. And probably guardians would then be able to attend at Bellins?—Yes.

1124. At present they would have to devote two days to it?—Yes.

1125. You attend here on Thursdays?—Yes.

1126. You could not at present attend at Bellins?—No. It would be very hard; it would take me three days from home.

1127. What would be the cost to you?—About thirty shillings. Well, fourteen shillings for carhire at the very lowest, and then night allowance, supper and so on. I am sure I could not do it under thirty shillings.

1128. Do you consider your salary is sufficiently high?—No, and within the past twelve months they have reduced it by £12 in my case.

1129. Do you think you could manage to do your district if you attended Bellins once a fortnight?—No, I don't think so.

1130. So you would require an increase of £30 a year to your salary to enable you to do your duty?—That at least.

1131. Are you a Sub-Sanitary Officer here?—Yes, but I may say so far as that is concerned I do nothing. £4 a year is what I am paid for that, but I could not afford to cover the whole district.

BALLINAGH
Mr. John
Nolan.

1133. Mr. Robinson.—What is the mileage charge for conveyance?—I pay 6s. a day for a car—at Fallmore I have to pay 8s., but 6s. within my district.

1134. What is the average length of your drives?—12 miles about and I pay a fixed scale.

1135. Do you think that with an ambulance and hospital amalgamation could be carried out?—Yes, with a comfortable ambulance I see no reason against it.

Mr. James Confield, Relieving Officer, recalled.

Mr. James
Confield.

1136. Mr. Robinson.—What are your districts?—Burruck, Glenamoy, Knockaduff, Knockmalown, Mullinabro, Mullinab.

1137. What are the names of the more populous villages?—Kilgilligan, Stonefield, Portadoc.

1138. What is the largest of these villages?—Stonefield and Portadoc is on the same road.

1139. Which of your divisions gives you most trouble?—Knockaduff.

1140. Where do you live?—At Inver.

1141. How far is Knockaduff from Belmullet?—16 Irish miles, going by road.

1142. And Portadoc?—14 miles.

1143. How far is Portadoc from Ballina?—By the north coast road about 20 miles.

1144. You remove people to the workhouse?—I presume by the ambulance from these distant places?—Yes.

1145. How do you manage?—I notice the contractor.

1146. Who is he?—Walsh is his name.

1147. There is no ambulance for your district?—No, there is one for the whole union.

1148. Did it ever happen that you sent for the ambulance and found it away at some other place?—Yes.

1149. What did you do then?—Waited till the next day.

1150. But if the Doctor told you it was an urgent case?—I would relieve it.

1151. And you would always wait for the ambulance?—Yes.

1152. Do you ever go into Ballina?—Often.

1153. Do you always come by Belmullet?—Yes.

1154. Is there mail or communication between Portadoc along the north coast road?—No.

1136. Do you not think that people who are inclined to visit Ballina, would be disposed to ask for a ticket to the workhouse by the ambulance?—No, I do not think there would be any case of that kind.

1137. Mr. Robinson.—Do I understand you to say you could not bring a person from Fallmore to Ballina in one day?—No.

1137. So that the Guardians of Knockaduff or those other divisions would have to come to Belmullet to get to Ballina?—Yes.

1138. Could they not be going across the country meet the car at Bangor?—Yes.

1139. What is your salary?—£17.

1140. How often do you come to the Board?—Once a week.

1141. How do you get in?—I ride my horse.

1142. A horse of your own?—Yes.

1143. What does the keep of the horse cost you?—Sometimes 2s. 6d. here. I have had three days and three nights here during the relief of distress.

1144. In the event of any Relieving Officer in that district going to Ballina from Inver, what would it cost him?—I think about £1 5s. to 30s.

1145. How do you make up that?—Chaise about 16s. into town to meet the mail car. It would cost that there and back, and stopping at Ballina 2s. 6d. a night.

1146. What would that include?—Dinner and breakfast.

1147. Could a Relieving Officer attend to his duties properly by attending the Board Meetings once a fortnight instead of once a week?—He might but not very easily.

1148. Would you be able to manage it?—Well it would be less trouble to me.

1149. Would you be able to manage it as well?—Yes, I think so.

1150. If you had to attend at Ballina you could not do it under a pound?—No, or over a pound.

1151. So that if you were relieving officer of the Ballina Union you would want a large increase of salary?—Yes.

Mr. Thomas Keilly, Relieving Officer, recalled.

Mr. Thomas
Keilly.

1175. Mr. Robinson.—What are your divisions?—Bangor, Glenamole, Glencoe, Geelamoe, Rathhill, and Shakin.

1176. Is there a population at Shakin?—It is the smallest.

1177. What is the population?—I could not say.

1178. Where is the poorest part?—Rathhill.

1179. Where do you live?—Munges.

1180. How is Rathhill situated?—It is all facing Ballycorry coast?—Yes, towards the Coastguard station.

1181. Are they a poor population?—Yes, with small holdings.

1182. Do they require much of your attention?—Yes, a good deal.

1183. You have a good many applications for relief?—Yes.

1184. How long do you take going from Belmullet to Rathhill?—It is about twelve miles.

1185. Is the road under contract the whole way?—At present it is.

1186. In the event of your bringing a sick person to Ballina you would have to bring him to Glenamole first?—No, there is a nearer way, by which you could come out of Bangor.

1187. How do you get the ambulance, by notifying the contractor.

1188. Is Belmullet the market-town for most of your districts?—Yes.

1186. Who is the guardian of Rathhill?—Mr. Bangham.

1187. What is your salary?—£15 a year as relieving officer.

1188. And how much as sub-ordinary agent?—About £2.

1189. What does it cost you to attend the weekly duties of the board?—I have not an exact account of it.

1190. Do you get much profit out of it all?—No indeed. It would hardly keep my horse.

1191. Why do you retain it?—Well, I farm some at home.

1192. Do you ever go to Ballina?—Yes.

1193. What does it cost you?—About 12s. to get away from Bangor to meet the mail car.

1194. Would the whole thing cost you £1?—Yes, to Ballina.

1195. Would you be able to discharge your duties efficiently here if you had to attend only once a fortnight?—Yes, but I should increase the provisional relief.

1196. Could you do it by attending once a fortnight at Ballina?—Yes, but I would require a higher salary, for I would not be able to do it with my present salary.

1197. What kind of cases are the majority of those you remove to the workhouse?—Old and infirm.

1198. When you remove them do they remain any time?—Some until they die.

1199. Do you remove many sick people?—Certainly, on a doctor's certificate.

1200. In all cases of the infirm and sick you use the ambulance?—Yes.

1201. Have you any applications from able-bodied persons?—No, unless there is some impediment on their part.

Patrick Fitzpatrick, Master of the Workhouse, recalled.

1202. Mr. Redington.—You have handed in a return in reference to the number of paupers in the workhouse?—Yes.

1207. Is that return correct—of the number 230 inmates, admitted into the workhouse during the year ending the 29th of September, 1886, you say that forty-three were re-admissions?—Yes.

1208. And five were transfers?—Yes, there were twenty-six very exceptional cases which came in for one night, and that was during the time of exceptional outdoor relief. Altogether 148 separate individuals were admitted into the workhouse during the year. The total admissions to 29th September were 224.

1209. There is another return as to the number of paupers chargeable to the workhouse yesterday, and the electoral divisions to which they are charged?—Yes.

1210. That return is correct?—Yes.

1211. Mr. Robinson.—Have you many casuals?—Very few.

1212. Where do they come from?—From all parts of the district—men looking for employment.

1213. I understand that the ambulance is kept at the workhouse?—Yes.

1214. Do you send out the ambulance when it is called for?—Yes, when I get a ticket from the Reliefing Officer I do.

1215. How many children are in the workhouse at present?—About thirteen in the schools, three in hospital, and five others a few years old in the female side.

1216. Of the children in hospital how many have parents and how many are orphans or have been

1202. If a person applies in Rathfrill, and you do not think him destitute, you offer him a ticket for the house?—Yes.

1203. Would you offer it with the same freedom if the workhouse was in Ballina?—I would.

1204. Would you not have to make more strict inquiries?—Yes.

1205. And that would be an additional reason for asking for an additional salary?—Yes.

REMARKS.—
Mr. Thomas Kelly.

deserted?—There are two whose parents are in the house, and there is one whose parent is in America, that is in the hospital.

1217. But in the workhouse?—I will supply a return of those.

1218. What is your salary?—£40.

1219. And what are your emoluments?—Altogether they come to £64.

1220. That is not included in your salary?—No.

1221. How long have you served as Master here?—Since January, 1881.

1222. Did you give up any appointment to obtain this employment?—Yes, I was Assistant Clerk in the Swiftford Union.

1223. What was your salary there?—£50 a year. It was a private employment not under the Local Government Board.

1224. How long were you in that employment?—From 1874, that was the year I was appointed.

1225. Do you consider your coming here in the nature of promotion?—Well, this was more permanent, being under a corporate body, and the reason was there was a change in the chairship of the Union, and upon the whole I thought it better to come here.

1226. Do you think the people in this workhouse would rather live in Belmullet or Ballina?—Well, about twelve months ago the inmates heard that they were about to be transferred to Ballina and there was quite a commotion amongst them. A resolution had been passed by the Guardians, and when the inmates heard it and when there was some idea that they were about to be transferred to Ballina, they did not like it.

Dr. John O'Connor, sworn and examined.

1227. Mr. Robinson.—You have been Medical Officer of this Union for some time?—Yes.

1228. How long have you been in that capacity?—Since '82.

1229. And at the same time you were Medical Officer of the Dispensary?—Yes.

1230. Is there much sickness in your district?—No.

1231. As a rule is there?—No.

1232. Have you been Medical Officer in some other district?—Yes, I was in Castlebay Union.

1233. Was there less sickness there?—I think there was more.

1234. Altogether you think this rather a healthy place?—Yes.

1235. What are the majority of the cases of sickness which come under your notice as Dispensary Medical Officer?—Colds, bronchitis, and things of that sort.

1236. Do you find it necessary for the better preservation of health to remove many of the people you visit to the workhouse?—Very seldom, except in cases of fever, and that I have not been able to do for some time.

1237. Why did you not?—The Guardians objected, and there was some difficulty about it. Some of the Guardians said, or wanted to infer that it saved me the trouble of visiting them.

1238. Did you take any interference of that kind by the Guardians very much to heart?—No.

1239. Did it occur to you, that a person's chance of recovery was advanced by their being brought in?—I

suppose any interference by the guardians would not stop you?—No.

1240. Then, have the people themselves an objection to come into the workhouse?—Yes: some have.

1241. As a rule, have you found that the average of men coming before you, are those of persons who would object to come into the workhouse?—It is all very much depends as to whether they are very poor or destitute.

1242. Putting that out of the question—under ordinary circumstances, would the residents of this part of the country who are offered real tickets—do they really object to come in?—There is no doubt, a great feeling exists amongst many people of having an objection to come into the workhouse.

1243. Did you ever ask them to come in when they refused?—Very often. I tell them, that if they come into the workhouse they would be better off, for I would be able to see them daily, and they would have a better chance of recovery.

1244. And in some cases they object?—Yes.

1245. How many on an average, do you send in, in a year?—Not a dozen.

1246. Would not their chances of recovery be very much improved by them coming into the workhouse?—Yes.

1247. And you find it hard to make them agree to come in?—Yes.

Dr. John O'Connor.

BEALMIST.
—
Dr. John
O'Connor.

1248. If there was no objection to their coming in, would you send in a great many more?—Yes.

1249. Because you think their chances of recovery would be improved?—Yes.

1250. What cases, as a rule, do you send into the house?—Cases of accidents or cases of ulcers, or cases that would require daily treatment and such close attention, that I could not give if they lived in their own homes.

1251. Can you give any idea of the average number you send in, in a year?—I have not sent in more than a dozen; sometimes, perhaps, not half a dozen.

1252. From what division do they mostly come, when you send in?—Chiefly from Bealmist.

1253. What are your districts?—Bealmist, Ringstown North, and Ringstown South.

1254. Do you send in many from Palmerston?—I do not think so, but patients do come from that district.

1255. Are there cases in any part of your district that you could send to Ballina without danger to health, supposing the workhouse to be there?—No doubt, there would be a larger number whom I could send there.

1256. Do you think the ambulance arrangement satisfactory at present?—Well, fairly. I think the horse is not a very useful animal, and I think it jolts very much. I tried to obtain a better contractor.

1257. What is the worst time of year in your experience?—The winter and spring months.

1258. There are more cases at that time that you send to hospital?—Yes.

1259. Well, now, in the event of amalgamation which has been suggested, would you, as a medical officer of health, think an intercepting hospital in Bealmist necessary for cases of accidents?—Certainly, for accidents and fever cases.

1260. Do you think the present hospital, built partly by the Government and partly by the guardians, would do it?—Yes; but you could not isolate the fever cases.

1261. How many fever cases have you had in that hospital?—Not one. The place has never been really in proper order.

1262. Have any cases of fever been treated in the workhouse since that hospital was built?—About two.

1263. Were there in the ordinary ward of the hospital?—Yes.

1264. Were the fever cases contagious or infectious?—Yes; but they were kept separate from the other patients.

1265. Did the same nurse attend both?—Yes; but the cases came in at different times.

1266. Did the same nurse attend the ordinary cases and the fever cases?—No; I expected to that, and I got a special fever nurse appointed.

1267. What is the greatest number of fever cases at one time that you had in this union?—Two, I think.

1268. Had you ever known in your district, of an outbreak of fever?—Yes; in Leam, and there were a few in Ringstown South.

1269. What did you do in these cases?—I did not remove them, because I did not think the hospital was a fit place for them, and the people had allowed the fever to get a good deal ahead before I found it out.

1270. How many would you have removed to hospital if it was a fit place?—I might have removed about three or four.

1271. Could you have removed those to Ballina?—No; they were not fit to be removed.

1272. What would you consider to be the limit of disease that patients, under ordinary circumstances, could be removed—would you say twenty miles?—No; not a mile at all; if the disease gets any headway, and unless it is taken at the very beginning, and as I explained, some of the fever cases were allowed to progress far some time before I became aware of their existence.

1273. Then it depends upon the stage of the disease as to whether you think the patients could be transferred any considerable distance?—Yes.

1274. Have you considered that question of amalgamation at all?—Very slightly. I am not a large manager.

1275. But as a Dispensary Medical Officer, do you see any hardship to the sick or distressed, in there being a general workhouse at Ballina instead of Bealmist?—No; if they had a proper ambulance.

1276. Do you think, in the event of a railway being established, and I understand it is being presented—would it minimize the difficulty very much?—Yes.

1277. Would there be no difficulty in removing accidents then?—I think not, except in very serious cases.

1278. In the event of a railway being established, would you think it necessary to retain an hospital at Bealmist?—Yes; I would think an hospital would be always necessary here.

1279. What is your salary?—Fifty pounds.

1280. Do you consider it to be excessive?—Well, certainly I do not.

1281. You could not very well take charge of an hospital for less than that?—No; I was looking over all the salaries of medical officers, and this is about the lowest in Ireland.

1282. At the same time, as a medical officer, do you know there are intercepting hospitals in certain parts of Ireland?—Yes; I know there are some, what are called "Cottage Hospitals."

1283. What do you think would be a fair salary for a medical officer for such intercepting hospital?—I think they ought to increase it by one-half, to say £75.

1284. In consequence of additional responsibilities?—Yes; there would be a great deal to do in the way of giving certificates and so on.

1285. How do you mean giving certificates?—The Relieving Officer would ask me if such a person was fit to be removed.

1286. But he would not ask you to aid his judgment except in cases of sickness?—That is so; well then, there would be cases of old people, and debility, and so on.

1287. What is the accommodation of this hospital supposed to be?—It is supposed to accommodate twenty-four persons, but I think it is too much; I would not like to put one-half that number into it.

1288. Do you know what allowance is the cubic bed space for this hospital—have the cubic contents been measured?—Yes; I think it was about eight hundred feet per bed. Yes they give an hospital from 750 to 1,200 feet.

1289. And there is a portion of this hospital for eight hundred cubic feet per bed?—Yes.

1290. Do you remove any lying-in cases to the lying-in ward?—Sometimes; there has been a few in my time.

1291. And there are cases I presume, you would have to treat in an intercepting hospital?—Yes.

1292. Is the hospital a good one, so far as wards are concerned, well arranged?—The arrangements are fair.

1293. In the event of amalgamation, and assuming that this building would be devoted to another purpose, such as an industrial school or anything of that sort, do you think the hospital would be of sufficient extent, or should it be enlarged?—I think it is ample except in cases of fever.

1294. What is the greatest number you have had under treatment in this hospital?—I think it went up to thirty-five.

1295. Have you got your book showing who are in it now?—Yes, I can produce it afterwards.

1296. What are the cases as a rule that are in the hospital now?—A good many of them are simply old people, and debilitated cases.

1297. The people on your book are simply people to whom you have ordered increased diet?—Yes;

they generally have one little complaint or another, and I think it better to keep them there under my eye.

1298. Is the dietary good?—Very.

1299. Could it be reduced?—I think not.

1300. Do you know how it compares with the dietary of other workmen?—It is about the same scale, and I think it was taken from the Westport Union.

1301. Of the cases you have at present under your charge how many could be removed to Ballina?—I should say all, except two or three.

1302. Could you name those that could not be removed?—One is a woman who received a very severe accident in the eye with boiling water, she could not be removed.

1303. Did she receive that injury in the home?—Yes, it was an accident amongst the staff, and there is another case of a woman whom I would not like to remove.

1304. If you had an hospital like the one outside, with a ward for fever cases, could a nurse do the combined duty of both sides of the house?—No; I do not think I would allow a nurse to attend ordinary and fever cases.

1305. How many proper assistants have you at present—is the nurse at present in the hospital?—No; we have no nurse.

1306. How do you manage to get on without one?—Well, for the last two or three months the matron does both duties.

1307. How many proper attendants have you?—One, nominally one, who does very little, except give for messages.

1308. Who looks after the sick in the hospital, or do they look after themselves?—Well, there may be some one not as bad as the others, and they look after each other.

Mr. Joyce, F.R.C., recalled.

1319. Mr. Robinson.—It has been mentioned by some of the Guardians that they consider it desirable to revert to the original boundaries of the Union when first formed, including Belmullet, Ballina, and Killa, would you be in favour of such a change as that?—All the ratepayers would be in favour of it.

1320. You think that the present burden upon the ratepayers is more than they can bear?—I think 2s. or 3s. in the pound would be quite enough for any part of the Union.

1321. Can you see any way of reducing that?—No, except by the amalgamation of the Union, or wiping out all our incumbrances.

1322. But that is an impossibility?—From the present state of the Union, I don't know what we can expect except that we all, ourselves, may come in here.

1323. Does the present rate pauperise the people?—Yes, to my own hardship.

1324. What are the rates from the schedule I saw yesterday?—I am sure they will go up to 8s. 9d. in

1309. Is it that the arrangements are not quite satisfactory?—Well, no. The fact is that the guardian never consulted me. They appointed the matron as a nurse without consulting me, and she does nurse duty.

1310. And they did not consult you?—No.

1311. And did you not consider it your duty to make a representation to them?—Well, the fact is that I am waiting in the hope of having it remedied.

1312. And if you had one proper attendant could you do without the proper attendant?—Yes.

1313. If there was an amalgamation and you had a qualified and efficient nurse who would carry out your instructions, do you think that an intercepting hospital here would work well?—I think so.

1314. How many fever fatal hospital cases have you?—There are thirty-five real fever fatal cases on the book. They come in occasionally. Of these, there are a few who could not be removed. Those (pointing to the book) are the ones which I would not consider it judicious to remove, and the others are cases only requiring a better class of dietary than the ordinary pauper.

1315. Are the numbers less in hospital than formerly?—No, they are rather more.

1316. Mr. Ardagh.—You said there are three or four persons who could not be removed without injury, can you say what division of the Union they came from?—I could not say.

1317. Would it be a very great hardship to send them on to Ballina?—It would all depend upon the state of their illness, and each case should be judged by itself.

1318. If there was a railway would you remove them even as they are now?—Yes, if they had a coach to lie on.

the pound, including the water charge. I live on this townland, and I do not see why we should pay for the water used in Belmullet. There are so many calls in the way of rates and cess and so on, that they are becoming insupportable. The clerk stated the rate would be 7s. 9d. in the pound; but I think it would be much more.

1325. Have you made any calculation as to the result of amalgamation?—I have not, except that some such thing is necessary. Including all my charges, I have to pay about 15s. or 16s. in the pound, and I think that that is rather too much.

1326. Are you an owner or occupier?—I hold freehold, and there are many charges upon it.

1327. You consider yourself one of the classes who suffer most from these heavy rates?—I do.

1328. Do you consider that you represent the views of the ratepayers of your district?—I have stated my own views any way. I cannot say what they say, but I am sure they think as I do.

Rev. Henry Hewson, F.R., recalled.

1329. Mr. Robinson.—Have you considered the question of amalgamation, or has it come before you in any form?—Well, it has; but it has come before me rather suddenly, and for the last couple of days I have been considering the matter, and I have come to the conclusion that it would be very desirable if we had an amalgamation with Ballina. I will give you my reasons for that opinion. The union must either remain as it is or be amalgamated with Ballina, and I see no middle course. The Guardians as at present consist of the ex-officio Guardians and the elected Guardians, and they have, so far, undertaken the duties of conducting the affairs of the union, and they

are either to continue to do so or pay Guardians must be substituted. There are the only two methods open, and I maintain that in neither case can you conduct the affairs of the union properly. As to the first proposition—namely, the continuance of the present system of management by the Guardians—I contend that its affairs cannot be conducted in a manner at all satisfactory to the ratepayers, simply because it is impossible for you to provide a proper honest working majority who would discharge their trust as guardians of the poor. My reasons for stating this I shall proceed to state, and I am pretty well acquainted with the working of the Board—though, indeed, I am

RECALLER.
Dr. John
O'Connor.

Mr. Joyce,
F.R.C.

Rev. Henry
Hewson, F.R.

Witness
—
Rev. Henry
Hewson, &c.

not very often in the Board-room, but I have still very satisfactory, and I believe very accurate, knowledge of their method of conducting its affairs. I will give you facts which I think will sustain my contention that the Guardians are quite unfit to occupy the responsible position which they have undertaken, and which has been intrusted to them. To begin, I will go back to the administration of the Seed Act of 1880. I think it was in the year 1880 when the loan was given for the seed to be distributed amongst the destitute and those who deserved that help. The Guardians made up their minds, although there was a vast felt throughout the whole Union for upwards, the old having become bad—the Guardians, I say, made up their minds to purchase old seed for distribution amongst the people of the union. Thus, I need scarcely say, was a very great mistake; for it was their duty to endeavour to obtain a change of seed for the people; and in the next place I would draw your attention to the manner in which this seed was delivered at the stores, and I take the opportunity of mentioning the fact that there was not a proper supervision of any kind on the part of the Guardians with reference to the storage or delivery of the seed, and for that reason alone it is clear that they did not fulfil the duty imposed upon them. For instance, to say our personal knowledge people got orders for seed potatoes, and went back to the stores and absolutely misled them, showing evidently, of course, that they did not require them. This system of tickets being given by the Guardians to persons who afterwards resold the potato seed proves conclusively the abuse to which the administration of a supposed relief extended. Again, persons who were supposed never to have sold a load of potatoes brought orders for potatoes to the paymaster, and these orders were honoured, and once a man came and represented himself to be another individual, and yet no adequate inquiries were made in order to prevent such an abuse. These facts were known at the time by the Guardians, and the Guardians took no cognizance whatever of them. In fact, the Guardians neglected their duty greatly.

1330. Mr. *Reynolds*.—How did the seed turn out? —Very badly indeed. In one case a man named Miggins procured the Guardians and got a decree for £10, the crop turning out so bad, and on the evidence given at the hearing of the case he got the decree as I say for £10, for loss and damage sustained. Well, I take the fact of the manner in which the Seed Act was administered by the Guardians is sufficient to prove the manner in which they discharged their duty as Guardians of the poor. I wish to add that some of those persons who were supposed to have got seed potatoes got none at all, but got instead a sum of money less than the value of the potatoes, for which they had signed documents. I have got a list here and could show you what a number of persons got seed potatoes in this manner. The potatoes were given out in 1880 and in 1881 I was going through the parish on parochial duties in spring and I made inquiries as to the circumstances. I then discovered the character of the seed given to them, and in some cases it not only turned out badly but might be said to be absolutely worthless. I had the opportunity of making inquiries as to the circumstances of the people, their Poor Law Valuation, rent, and whether they paid their rates or not—what amount of potatoes they got from the union in the spring previous, how much rent was in arrears and so on. I found amongst others one case—of Michael McAndrew, who got a ticket for 8 cwt. of potatoes and who got no potatoes, but got £1 6s. 8d. in cash—the potatoes were allowed for at the rate of 6d. a stone—that would be 4s. a cwt. He signed for them at the full value £1 12s., and received only £1 6s. 8d., and the parties charged the union £1 12s. In another case John O'Hara, was supposed to get 8 cwt. of potatoes but he got £1 6s. 4d. Another John Killeen, was supposed to get 8 cwt., and he got £1 6s. 4d., and so on, and afterwards I called the attention of the Chairman of

the Board of Guardians and of others to it, and yet they never took the smallest notice of it. When they allowed their officers to act in this way—and when they were confronted with these abuses which could be proved beyond you or any—could these Guardians be said to be capable of managing the affairs of the union. These things all plainly pointed to the fact that the business of the union could not be properly carried on by such men. I come now to 1885—last year. In that year a Commission of Inquiry was held as to the propriety of establishing certain works at the east and west end of the town of Belmullet. It was known that a grant had been made amounting to about £3,600 or over. Immediately the grant was made, I ascertained that an effort was made to influence the Board of Works to depart from their usual course of doing the works by contract, and to get them done under their own supervision, with the object that certain parties would make more than if it were conducted in the ordinary way by contract, but in order to get the work done in this way, before the Board of Works had time to consider the matter a Representation was made to the Board of Works, the result of which was that I received a letter from General Sankey, stating—that the necessity of proceeding immediately with the works at Belmullet, through their own agency and without employing contractors, had been pressed upon the Board, and while recognising the desirability of doing so under the present need of providing employment for the labouring poor they were reluctant to depart from their established practice of letting the works by contract unless they obtained some assurance of local support in overcoming any difficulties which may arise. The Board would not object to entrust the execution of the works at Belmullet to the supervision of a member of this our staff—employing day's labour procured in the locality provided their Engineer in charge of the district should have sole charge and control as to the number of men to be employed at any time and the rate of wages. I wrote to say that I had been aware it was more than three months since that this effort would be made, and that while I admired the motive which made the members of the Board of Works to start the works to give employment for the destitute poor, I begged to assure them that there was no such thing as absolute destitution in the union. In consequence of a report made to them the Local Government Board sent an Inspector, Captain Sauson, to inquire as to whether or not there was anything in the nature of abnormal destitution. He came down and made a report, the nature of that report I do not know, but the works were not started then. We then came in to this year, in January of this year. These works had not been then commenced and a representation was made to quite a number of people particularly in two districts—in Tipperary district (Binghinstown North), and also in the electoral division of Knockaduff, that if the people came in crowds to the workhouse it would be an incentive to the Guardians to print to the state of destitution, and then a resolution was forwarded to the Local Government Board to make these communications with the Board of Works, and that they should still depart from their usual course of leaving the works to contract. The people came in here in numbers and protested that they were destitute, and the Guardians passed a resolution calling the attention of the Local Government Board to "the fact of the existence of very intense and lamentable distress prevailing in the union."

1331. Mr. *Reddy*.—What was the date of that?

Rev. Mr. *Hewson*.—It must have been before the 23rd February. The reason I fix the date as before that is that I received a communication from the Board of Works to the effect that they intended to start the works without going through the ordinary way of giving them to a contractor—but that they would proceed with them under their own supervision. To that I wrote a reply still stating that notwithstanding

standing the resolution of the Guardians there was no abnormal distress in the union at the time, and I maintain that still. I maintain that in this matter the working majority of the Board lent themselves to the ends and views of an individual to carry out what would be desirable for him, and not for the poor. I believe I am within the lines when I say that from that time to this scarcely forty men have been employed on the works. These were I regret to say, I have reason to believe, instead of being conducive to the interest of the poor, have been quite the contrary. Not only that but on the day of the passing of this resolution, on the day previous, when one of the officers of the union—the Relieving Officer—was applied to he distinctly stated that these people did not come in because they were destitute but because a "whip" had been sent out.

1332. Dr. M'Callum.—Fix the date of that, as I want to give evidence about it.

Rev. Mr. Hewson.—I could not absolutely fix it. It was some time in February, no doubt.

1333. Mr. Redington.—Was it the day the resolution was passed?—About that time.

1334. Was the resolution passed the day these people came in?—No; on another day.

Mr. Flynn.—On the 28th of January these people attended. That is the day the statement was made.

Rev. Mr. Hewson.—I now come to the Relief of Distress Act of 1849, and I maintain that in the administration of that the Guardians did not discharge their duty, but that they far exceeded the limits to which they ought to have given relief under that Act, and gave it to persons—numbers of persons—who did not require it. That is my case of proof. The works were stopped for a fortnight, commencing 5th of June, and during that fortnight the people who had been hunched off the works were relieved by the clergy out of private funds, with the exception of those who were relieved previously under the ordinary Poor Law Act. In my own division—parishes of Glencastle, portion of Muinga, portion of Belmont, portion of Knocknolawa (the parish is known as Killoonagh)—I made an estimate of the relief that would be administered during the period of seventeen weeks, beginning 13th of March to the 5th July. For the fortnight in June when the distress was at its height, I relieved a sum of £39 the people of the country parts of my parish. They were about 830 families. I relieved 156 families during the fortnight in June. Eight tons of meal at £9 10s. represented £52. During the first fortnight of the month of June, when the works stopped, six tons of meal was what I gave out, representing a sum of £39, and that multiplied by 17 at £30 would be £340. I maintain that in these parts of the district belonging to me, for £340 I could have relieved all the distressed cases.

1335. Mr. Robinson.—That was when the poverty was greatest?—Yes; and when I can relieve my people for £340 I would show 1500 for each of the other and more populous districts, or in other words, a sum of £1,040 for the entire Union for these seventeen weeks if only distressed cases were relieved.

1336. How many families are there in your parish?—Four hundred and seventy-eight families.

I may mention that even while the works were going on I relieved persons who had been refused relief, who had not been taken on the works, and whom I believed to be destitute.

1337. Mr. Redington.—We have heard that some were placed on the works who were not destitute?—I assume that that is so. If I could do so much for £39 I see no reason why the Guardians could not if they exercised ordinary care.

1338. How much meal did you give each week to each family?—One out, out of need to each family.

1339. For how long?—A fortnight.

1340. How many people would be supported on that for a fortnight?—A small family would, but they were not in such an absolutely destitute condition that they could not fall back on something else. Now I come to another subject, which has become a public matter, and in mentioning it I am simply stating what has come before the general public and is known to them. An officer of the Union who had funds of the Union placed at his disposal for the administration of relief, instead of doing what he should have done, ran up a bill with a person in the town with whom he contracted for supplies, and the Guardians have incurred a debt amounting to £35 or so. One of the Guardians so whom this was known, and it is known to many, seconded this relieving officer to this party for the purpose of compounding or making an arrangement by which, on receipt of a small sum of money, the whole charge would be withdrawn. And I hear the charge has been withdrawn. I say a Board like that, having amongst its number a man who is capable of that is not to be intrusted with the administration of the poor law.

1341. Mr. Robinson.—Who is the Guardian you refer to?—Mr. Anthony O'Donnell. From the facts which I have brought under your notice, I am justified in coming to the conclusion that the affairs of the Union ought not to be administered by a Board of Guardians as at present constituted. I am open to say this, that amongst the Board are men as fair and straightforward as you would find anywhere, but they are overruled by the majority. The other alternative would be to have paid Guardians, but that would mean a further increase of the rates, and we could not think of affording it. There is, therefore, so far as I can see, no course open but that of amalgamation.

1342. Do you know any purpose to which this workhouse could be applied?—No.

1343. Would there be any hardship to the poor in the event of the establishment of a workhouse at Ballina instead of here?—No.

1344. Would you have an intercepting hospital?—Yes, for fever and other cases that would tick up.

1345. The prospects of the Union are not improving?—No.

1346. If there was railway connection with Belmullet would it be of advantage?—Most certainly the prosperity of the Union would be improved, and the fishing industry developed.

1347. Would there be an increase of outdoor relief?—That would depend on the officers you would have administering it.

Dr. James M'Callum sworn.

1348. Mr. Robinson.—You wish to make a statement?—Yes. There was mention made here by the Rev. Mr. Hewson, that I remarked that a whip was made to bring in these people for the purpose of getting up relief works. Well, at all events there are a great lot of persons who come to this boardroom, and they were brought before a large board of guardians. I was chairman at the time, and they were asked what they wanted. They stated that they wanted relief, and they told us they were in shipet poverty, in the greatest distress. Well, the relieving officer who was present gratuitously said there was a "whip" put on

them," and that it was a fictitious cry. He certainly used the word "whip." Well, sir, so much impressed was I on the day they were ranged along the end of that room, and that they were badly in need of relief, that I said, "if you do not accept the house I do not know what to do for you," and as they complained so much, and said they had not as much as would support them that night, I said, "well, I for one will do what I can; I will put my hand in my pocket to afford you relief for this night." Mr. A. Gibson was here, and he said, "I will do the same." He did so, and he, and I, and some others contributed a few shil-

Witnessed
by
Rev. Henry
Hewson, M.P.

Dr. James
M'Callum.

BRIDGESMAN,
—
Dr. James
Maloney.

ings to relieve their immediate distress. I asked the relieving officer to make out a return of them in his district in want of relief. The relieving officer, I believe, gave in a return on that very day, and I think there were forty or fifty cases. I will not be positive of the number, but that is my recollection, and we sent the list to the Poor Law Commissioner. Well, I was aware that there were some works to be carried out by the Board of Works in the neighbourhood of Belmullet, and I worded a resolution asking the Local Government Board to use their influence with the Commissioners of Public Works to commence those works immediately, for the purpose of relieving the great existing distress that we thought existed there. The Local Government Board on our suggestion communicated with the Board of Works, and they sent down a person to conduct the works next week. They were commenced on, I think, the 28th of January. Now, am I right in saying that Father Hewson said there was no great distress then?

Rev. Mr. Hewson.—No abnormal distress at that time.

Dr. Maloney.—Well, the Rev. Mr. Hewson, notwithstanding that, published a letter on the 27th of February.

Rev. Mr. Hewson.—A month later.

Dr. Maloney.—Be it so. He still contended there was no great distress, and here is what he writes:—

—Belmullet, Co. Mayo,
Feb. 27, 1884.

"It is with a heavy heart I undertake a task from which all my senses are recoiled. As I sit in the room from which I write I can see the hills of poverty-stricken Achill in the distance, and sensible of the destitution that exists there, I shudder as I think of what may be the outcome of the present destitution that surrounds myself."

"Already the cry of the hunger-stricken has sounded in my ears, and already, during the discharge of my pastoral duties, many appeals from the sunken eyes of youthful men and aged women have been made for that relief which, alas, I am unable to afford."

Rev. Mr. Hewson.—That is true; such appeals were made.

Dr. Maloney.—The letter proceeded:—

"During the past month urgent appeals have been made to place the wants of a starving people before a churchman's pulpit, and I want to confess that with all my desire to obtain relief for the distressed, I have shrunk from the task."

"But now there is no other alternative left. Relief must be had, or my poor people must perish."

"Indeed I would, ere now have made an appeal on my people's behalf were it not that I had some expectations that when some public works were promised would have commenced the more urgent cases would have been relieved by obtaining work, at no matter how low a remuneration. These works, limited of course in their extent, have been carried out for the past three weeks, and credit is tendered, if you can, Father Hewson's parishioners have been positively boycotted, only two of them having obtained employment on public works on his own parish; started ostensibly for the purpose of relieving the distress. This is no myth, this is absolute truth; it defies consideration. Somehow have been brought in and employed. No people are without employment and in distress. And I sit therefore justified in raising my voice in God's name, asking for aid to stem, even a small way, the torrent of misery that threatens the destruction of my people."

Rev. Mr. Hewson.—You see I use the word "threatens."

Dr. Maloney.—Again, the letter says:—

"Cases over which I had no control, a wretchedly bad harvest, and general depression, have brought us to the verge of starvation. Shall we be permitted to all over the province? The history of charity in the past furnishes the thought, and such as I deprecate the necessity of once again appealing for aid for the famine-stricken of Belmullet. I feel that I would be violating my obligation of looking after the interests of the poor committed to my charge were I to remain silent."

"I therefore appeal to the charity of the united of my race, to the young and to the old, to the rich and to the poor, in their poverty, to help my poor people in their dire distress."

I would appeal in an especial manner to the press, and to my confreres in the ministry, to say a kind word for the starving poor of Belmullet.

"Fideliſſimely yours,

"HENRY HEWSON, P.P., V.F."

Dr. Maloney.—That is in face of his evidence, and I can show you, gentlemen, that he was in receipt of a huge amount of money. I won't say that he did not acknowledge it, but, at all events, there is no insinuation from Mr. Michael Davitt, who contributed this relief.—

1349. Mr. Robinson.—We have allowed you to read that letter as an avowal or qualification to the statement of Father Hewson that there was no great distress at that time when you applied to the Local Government Board, but I do not think that any subsequent discussion between Mr. Michael Davitt and the reverend gentleman can throw any light on it.

Dr. Maloney.—Mr. Davitt complained that he did not acknowledge it, and it appeared in the *Freeman's Journal*.

1350. Mr. Robinson.—You say that on the day of the alleged "whip" there was great distress prevailing?—Yes; and this gentleman beside me contributed to meet it.

1351. How long did this distress last?—For a month or two. We applied then to the Local Government Board to get the works under way.

1352. Was the distress going on increasing from the 28th of January?—I suppose it was. At last we got the Relief of Distress Act.

1353. I have the return of outdoor relief, and I would ask you to explain how on the 30th of January there are two cases less of outdoor relief than on the previous Saturday if the distress was increasing?—I can't account for it.

1354. And on the 13th of February there were four less than on the 23rd January, so that the distress was not increasing, or the relieving officers were not relieving it?—Well, it seems to me they were not relieving it. When our relieving officer said a "whip was put on" it was not so, and the people were in distress. We got a lot drawn up.

1355. What became of this list?—We sent the return to the Local Government Board.

1356. The number of outdoor relief cases went on diminishing from the 18th of February?—I can't say that.

1357. What happened to the forty persons who you say were destitute, and who appeared here at the Board?—They were not brought on the books.

1358. What exactly was the return of the relieving officer?—That there were so many in his district as a destitute state.

1359. Did he not consider them to be in a sufficiently destitute state to be on his books?—No. We made a strong representation of the distress in Ennis.

1360. On what ground?—Well, there were forty or fifty people who attended in distress at this Board and downwards.

1361. Did you consider they required relief?—Yes, for I put my hand in my pocket for them.

1362. To what extent?—We gave them a couple of pounds. They stated they were in distress—that they were starving.

1363. Were you a Guardian at the time the said rate was distributed?—No.

1364. Have you anything further to add?—Yes, if you allow me to say that I think there might be some reductions, and a representation made to have several officers paid by the State that are paid out of the union at present.

1365. What are those?—For instance, the registration is a very expensive item in the scales of our man and could never come within the Poor Laws.

1366. Anything else?—Yes, the sanitary arrangements should not be included. It is a matter that should be paid out of the funds of the State.

1367. Anything else?—There are officers connected with the registration of voters. They ought to be paid by the State, as it does not concern the Poor Law.

1368. Mr. Robinson.—Do you not think the administration of these matters affects the district?—Yes, but it should not affect the district to the extent of being included in the Poor Law. It should be paid by the State.

1369. Why should the State pay for it?—Why should the taxpayers of England and Ireland pay for the Belmullet waterworks?—I don't think these things should be left on the Poor Law.

1370. You think the registration, the sanitary, and other charges should be borne by the whole country?—Yes.

1371. So that you would have to bear your share also of the Dublin waterworks?—I don't know about that.

1372. Perhaps you are of opinion that Belmullet

should not bear its share of the general rate?—It should not, for it could not.

1373. But if there was a general rate would it not be necessary for Belmullet to contribute towards the others?—I suppose so.

1374. Do you know what the rates are in Cork, Belfast, Waterford, and other places?—No. I know there ought to be a rate in aid for this distressed union, for it will never be able to support itself.

1375. A rate in aid over what area?—Over the whole of Ireland on Imperial rate.

1376. If there was a rate in aid over the whole of Ireland for the aid of the Belmullet Union, and the Belmullet guardians had to administer it, would they be more concerned with it than they are now?—I can't say what they would do.

1377. Have you formed any opinion on the question of amalgamation?—Well, in the event of our not getting an Imperial rate, we should by all means.

REMARKS
Mr. James
Mulhany.

Mr. WILLIAM ABBEY examined.

My recollection as to the incident referred to, with reference to "the whip," is that we were sitting here with Dr. Mulhany in the chair. Mr. Nolan came in with the rate books. The chairman directed him to find out how much distress there was in his division, and Mr. Nolan replied "Oh there is no great distress in my division." Dr. Mulhany and others cried out against him. Nolan then said there was a "whip" went out, and that the people came in because they were called on to do so, but that there was no great distress. Nolan before he left the workhouse was prevailed on to give in that list, and if left to himself and his own unbiased opinion, he would not have done so.

1377A. Mr. Redington.—Did you consider there was great and widespread distress at that time?—No. These people were brought up, and I heard guardians who knew them say there were parties there who were not in distress. When Dr. Mulhany spoke as much about it, I said "The only way for you to do is to relieve them out of your own pocket, and he took no notice of it then. Afterwards he put down a half sovereign and so we did that I put down a half sovereign, and other guardians did the same, and it was given to Nolan to distribute.

1378. What is your opinion on the subject of amalgamation?—That we would derive no advantage from it at all. I don't say that we would make expense by it in a pound. Take the expenditure under the Medical Charities Act, the Registration Act, the Burial Grounds, the Contagious Diseases (Animals), Repayment of Loans—we would have all these charged, and then there would be three relieving officers going between them about £100 a year more than now. We would have no guardians of our own going to look after our business. For my part if I got a salary I would not do so. Then you would have the benefit.

1379. The relieving officers' salaries would be assessed over the whole three unions?—Yes, but I cannot see the advantage, financially, of the change. We certainly could not be much worse; we keep up a staff as expensive as a rich union, and we would have to supersede all the officers we would displace.

1380. If it was found that by amalgamation there would be a saving of 1s. 6d. in the £ to Belmullet, would you be in favour of amalgamation?—No, for the distance to Ballinacree is too great. If they were close together like Newport and Westport, it would be a different matter. The savings of Newport and Westport combined is scarcely equal to Belmullet.

1381. Mr. Robinson.—In the event of a saving of 2s. being effected in the £, would you be in favour of amalgamation?—Yes, if there was not a hardship on account of the distance; but I would have great hesitation. I think the best thing would be for the Local

Government Board to withdraw, and take their staff with them, and leave us to support ourselves. They should take away the doctor, inspectors, and the rest of it, and let us have no workhouse, and we would support our own poor.

1382. Suppose in a time of poverty and distress, if you were not, how would you be able to tide over the difficulty?—Well, we would be in the same state as the paupers. But that argument tells another way too, for in times of distress you are not able to get your rates.

1383. I take it then, that you would not recommend amalgamation, even with a reduction of 2s. in the £?—I would have great hesitation in doing it.

1384. Now in any recommendations you could make to the Commission as to the future prospects of the Union?—What do you mean?

1385. It has been shown that the average rate of 4s. 10d. or 4s. 8d. would be required to meet the expenses of the Union in ordinary years—do you think the ratepayers could undertake to pay that?—No, not for many years; but if we had a proper board of guardians we would get on better. One proposal I would make—I would decrease the number of electoral divisions; they are all too small. The result is that Glenties pays 5s. 6d., though it does not supply one pauper. I would unite it to some other division, and reduce the general number down to seven or eight, and raise the qualification to £20 instead of £10 a year. I may say, that I myself, in a small way, was the cause of having abuses removed; one was that when a party applied to the Board to be sent to the Infirmary at Castlebar, the Board would make an order for him to get so much money to pay his expenses, I pointed out that they had no right to do that unless he came to the house, and the doctor certified that he should get his expenses. Another was, though not altogether successful, with reference to the hour of meeting. The hour is 12 o'clock, but I am here, systematically here, till 1 o'clock before a Board is assembled, and I frequently called on the clerk, when one came, to have the Board adjourned. I lose an hour and a-half in that way, and then have to go away, and I blame the clerk for this.

1386. Your opinion is, that if we raised the qualification we might leave you to yourself?—Yes.

1387. What number of electoral divisions would you have?—About eight. I would recast the Union.

1388. If there was no workhouse, would you trust the guardians to relieve the poor by outdoor relief?—Oh, I did not suggest that seriously at all.

1389. You would be in favour of raising the general qualification?—Certainly.

1390. Mr. Redington.—Did you ever point out to the Board any means by which the expenditure could be modified?—No. I may say that there is no regular finance day; every day is a finance day, and the mo-

Mr. WILLIAM
Abbey.

DEPUTY-
MR. WILKES
ATTORNEY.

must a few pounds come together the clerk takes up the bank book and the money is frittered away. There was £235 granted by the Local Government Board to pay a bill of costs; the cheque was sent to Mr. Kelly to pay that, and when it was presented it was found there was no money—it was all gone. Such a thing is disgraceful in my opinion.

1391. Can you suggest any way by which a saving in the expenditure can be effected?—I cannot do so now in detail, but I think we could effect a saving.

Mr. Jeynt, P.S.O.

Mr. Jeynt,
P.S.O.

As a member of the Board of Guardians attending here occasionally, I can only say that I do my duty independently, and that all the members of the Board act in conjunction with me. Mr. Atkinson differs from us in principle, and the difference is so much that we can't either lead or drive him. The fact of the matter is that previous to my coming here I found the union in debt and difficulty from 1890 to 1891 to the present time. Under the needs and other rates it has been going down, and requires to be remodelled

1392. How?—Well by making the clerkship and the master together—that could be done. In Roserea the clerk of the union is also postmaster, and carries on the business of both. However, I am myself only a bird of passage.

1393. Do you think the distance to Ballina would be too great to transfer destitute and sick people?—I do, but I think if we had a railway between this and Ballina amalgamation would be quite feasible.

again. Unless something is done we won't be able to sustain the charges imposed upon us. Mr. Atkinson is a very good guardian, but I think we do our duty just as well and as independently as he does, and I don't see why he should throw cold water on us.

1394. Mr. Atkinson.—Would you be afraid to leave the administration in Ballina?—I think it would do well. I see no reason why not. It would effect a saving of between £1,500 and £1,800 a year.

John Nolan, Relieving Officer, recalled.

Mr. John
Nolan.

1394a. Mr. Redington.—Can you tell me what occurred on the 28th of January—on the day the people attended in the boardroom?—It was Board day, and I came before the guardians with my application report book, and after I entered the boardroom the chairman, Dr. Mulkay, asked me, "What about all the people that are downstairs?" He asked were they not in distress. I do not know the exact words, but the question was what to do with them. I said I did not believe they were in distress. He said what did they come there for. I replied simply because a whip was sent out to bring them in. He then said, "Why do you say that?" I answered that it was done to my knowledge—a whip was sent out. I said I asked the people on the road, and they told me that John T. Murphy had sent on word to be at the workhouse to-day. I was then asked was there destitution in my district. I said, "No, there was no widespread destitution, that there were chronic cases." I was asked could I make a report, and I said "Yes," and then I was asked to take the people who were below before the Board. When they came into the boardroom Dr. Mulkay asked what brought them there. They said to get relief. "Are you destitute," he said, "Yes, starving," they replied, and then Dr. Mulkay asked, "The Relieving Officer says a whip has been laid on your shoulders?"

Dr. Mulkay.—I did not say "On your shoulders." Fitness.—"A whip," he said, "has been laid on your shoulders, according to the Relieving Officer, to bring you in." The word I did use was that a "whip had been sent out." I said it was almost impossible to make out a report without giving some time, but I

made out a list and brought it before the Board. I was then told a collection had been made up, and I was asked to take charge of it. I asked who I was to give it to, and was told to give it to the most destitute. I went to Belmullet, and not to delay the people I left my books at my mother's place, and went into Jordan's and made out a scale according to the families of these people. Some of them asked me to give them groceries, and I said, "No, I will give nothing but meal, just as a sort of destination." In one or two cases I did allow tea or sugar, or sixpence or eightpence, but in the majority of cases the people got meal.

1394b. Mr. Redington.—Do you consider that any of the forty cases whose names were down were fit to be put on outdoor relief?—Yes, some. Next week there was a similar crowd. They thought there would be another collection, and I offered them tickets for the house, but they would not take them.

1395. What became of those thirty or forty people. If they were destitute why did you not bring their cases before the Board?—I offered them tickets for the workhouse, and told them I could not give outdoor relief to bondholders.

1396. Did any come in?—No.

Dr. Mulkay.—You state that I used the words, "A whip was laid on your shoulders?"—Yes, those were your words.

Mr. Atkinson.—I have an indistinct recollection that Nolan is right.

Dr. Mulkay.—Well, under these circumstances, I would withdraw my version of it.

Captain Sampson, L.B. 1870a.

Captain
Sampson, L.B.

1397. Mr. Redington.—You are the Local Government Inspector for this district?—Yes.

1398. How long have you held that office?—About two years.

1399. Were you able to give constant supervision to the administration of the Relief Act in this union?—No, not constant supervision.

1400. How many unions have you in charge to which the Poor Relief Act, 1896, applied?—Swinford, Westport, and this.

1401. You are the Inspector for the Westport Union?—Yes.

1402. Has any inconvenience arisen to the poor

and destitute in the outlying districts since the amalgamation of Westport with Newport?—None that I am aware of.

1403. What is the distance between Achill and Westport?—About forty miles, Irish.

1404. Mr. Redington.—Have you any idea what has been the financial result to the union from the amalgamation?—A great saving; the rates are lower than they ever have been in both Newport and Westport.

1405. How do the people come from Achill?—Well, there are very few cases sent in since Newport has been joined. They have an ambulance when bad cases arise, which is very seldom.

Mr. Flynn *re-examined*.DEPOSITION
of
Captain
Burgess, &c. &c.

There are a few statements of Mr. Atkinson which, as they go into evidence and affect me, I should wish to contradict.—First, as to the hour of meeting. When Mr. Atkinson first came here from Tipperary, he attended on one occasion at five minutes past one o'clock, often minutes. He called upon me to adjourn the Board. This I refused to do. The regulation of the Local Government Board says that we shall not adjourn within one hour from the time of meeting, but we may adjourn at any time afterwards—we are thus limited in one direction, but not in the other. The people in this part of the country are late at all meetings, and I did not think it prudent to adjourn the Board so strictly, and the guardians generally meet late—from half-past one to two o'clock. On one occasion I adjourned the Board rather punctually, endeavouring to bring the guardians to punctuality in their attendance, but some guardians then complained very much that, after attending ten or twelve miles, the books were closed against them to walk home, and they said I was very well paid for being there, while they were paid nothing. Next, Mr. Atkinson says that where moneys are lodged I take up the cheque book and fitter them away. There is no doubt I filled the cheques, mechanically, but the act was the act of the Board. The marshals select some small accounts for payment. They are often able to pay small accounts while they are not in a position to meet the larger ones, and Mr. Atkinson's policy would seem to be that we should allow our funds to accumulate while so many accounts are due to parties. I will give an instance. There is a balance of £13 odd due to the representatives of Dr. Phayre. I had numerous letters from the solicitor, Mr. Sweeney,

for payment—addressed to me officially. I brought the account under the notice of the Board, and recommended payment.

Mr. Atkinson.—Yes, but we had no funds to pay it.

Mr. Flynn.—I brought the account before the guardians on a previous occasion, but Mr. Atkinson objected to payment for some reason or another—on some peculiar principle—and the consequence is that I had a letter on Friday last from Mr. Sweeney expressing surprise that he had not received a cheque, and threatening proceedings without further notice. Then, the guardians may expect a writ at any moment, with expenses, and I mention this to show the wisdom of Mr. Atkinson's policy to have the funds accumulate. Regarding the lodgment of £225, a grant was received from the Local Government Board for the discharge of Mr. McAndrew's cost. This sum was duly placed to the credit of the union, and a cheque for the amount immediately issued to Mr. Kelly. Mr. Kelly did not present the cheque for a considerable time, and afterwards, while I was filling cheques at that desk, the Board of Works was debiting our account for the seed loan at Bellina, and thus it was that when the cheque was afterwards presented there were not sufficient funds to meet it, and it was dishonoured.

Mr. Atkinson.—That's the first time we heard that explanation.

Mr. Flynn.—Simply because you would not listen to it—whatever business of the union, I have endeavoured to discharge my duties honestly.

Mr. Burgess.—I must corroborate the evidence of Mr. Flynn, I never knew him to fill cheques without consulting the Board and having their order.

FRIDAY, 26th NOVEMBER, 1886.

WESTPORT UNION.

No. 56, 1886.

The Commissioners opened the Inquiry at eleven o'clock, in the Boardroom of the Workhouse.

Mr. J. J. Louder, B.L., instructed by Mr. Patrick Kelly, solicitor, appeared for the Guardians.

Mr. John Egan, Clerk of the Union, swears.

Mr. John
Egan.

1886. Mr. Redington.—You are the Clerk of the Union?—Yes.

1887. You have prepared certain returns of expenditure, grants, &c.?—Yes.

1888. Take this return of expenditure and grants, and say if it is correct?—It is.

1889. Is it an accurate statement of the expenditure and grants and of the excess of expenditure over grants?—It is, to the best of my knowledge, skill, and judgment.

1890. From what is the return made out?—From the accounts as presented by the Local Government Board; but the accounts of the contractors, which form its basis, have not yet been fully checked.

1891. How then do you know that it is correct?—Well, it is practically correct.

1892. But you say the accounts have not been fully checked?—No; but so far as was in my power I checked the tickets of the relieving officers.

1893. Then do I understand that you are not afraid of the contractors sending in any other bills?—Well, I regret to say it was only yesterday morning that I received claims from contractors, but for very small sums, and I have kept the envelopes. Two claims have come in that are for very small sums for goods alleged to have been supplied in last May and last June in Loughbeg, and for goods supplied in May, June, and last of July.

1894. Have you included that in the return?—No.

1895. Mr. Robinson.—What is the amount?—£2 3s.; and this from Loughbeg does not state for what part of the Union relief was given, and it is not

certified by the relieving officer. These people have had transactions with the contractors, and now at this time they send in their claims; but the account as presented to you may be taken as practically complete.

1896. Mr. Redington.—Then did you found this statement on the bills furnished by the contractors?—Exactly.

1897. How did you check them?—By looking at the receipts in the expenditure books, so far as they were made up.

1898. Are some not made up?—Some are not completed.

1899. How then can you swear to the accuracy of the contractors' bills?—They are certified by the relieving officers, and they having done that I hold them responsible for the bills.

1900. You have no means of knowing that there may not be other bills?—Well, if you will take an expression of opinion, I would say that it is my belief that there will be none others, and that all the accounts are in receipt, no doubt, one or two which I think should not be recognised.

1901. Do these bills state the date on which meal was supplied?—Yes. The latest date is the 15th July.

1902. Between what date and the 15th of July is the meal alleged to have been given?—One goes back as far as 23rd of May. It is alleged to have been supplied for Clare Island. Another goes back to June 16th, and it does not say even what relieving officer gave the order. I sent it to the contractor,

Witness
—
Mr. John
Egan.

sating it was late, and I have a copy of my letter. I received a letter from Louisa, dated 23rd Nov., 1836, as follows:—

"Mr. Egan.

"Sir,—Mr. Atkinson, relieving officer, has informed me he will be in the boardroom of the Workhouse on Thursday next, and will certify to the accuracy of the account if required. I hope you will kindly oblige me by making it all right.

"Yours respectfully,

"M. McGee."

The letter does not specify what electoral division it was for.

1423. You have no means of knowing whether that is correct or not, or whether there are other bills outstanding?—No; but I am satisfied there can be nothing of any importance.

1424. Mr. Robinson.—But you cannot say that this return is absolutely correct?—It is, as far as data coming into my possession is concerned.

1425. Kindly read the amounts of expenditure over grants in each electoral division according to the return handed in by you. I assume it is the most correct statement you have?—Yes. It differs somewhat from the return of the 16th and 17th September, inasmuch as since then bills have come in. The printed figures show the accounts up to the date certified, but since then an alteration has become necessary, and in the figures I now give the return is accurate up to date, and may be taken as correct. The figures are as follows:—(See Appendix A, Table II.)

1426. We may take this return as correct?—Yes.

1427. Mr. Robinson.—In the Louisa Electoral Division do you include the bill sent in to-day or yesterday?—No, I do not know what it is for.

1428. Mr. Louden.—Or whether it is legal or not?—No.

1429. Mr. Robinson.—What are the "other expenses" referred to in this return?—I will furnish them immediately; there was £390 for tools.

1430. Mr. Robinson.—Now, what steps have you taken to ascertain whether or not there are other claims outstanding?—I took no steps whatever except to tell the relieving officers constantly to bring in the bills and accounts.

1431. When did you tell them?—I admitted to that effect as far back as June, in the papers.

1431A. And have you reminded the relieving officers at intervals of their duty?—Yes. There has not been a meeting of the Board at which it has not been done.

1432. Had you any idea that there was anything outstanding in respect of Clare Island or Louisa?—No; I may mention that the account of the relieving officer is in excess of the bills furnished, but I have not checked it fully.

1433. What then do you go by?—By the relief lists, and checking his accounts by his relief list shows more than the relief furnished.

1434. Are the relief lists made up?—Yes.

1435. Is Clare Island made up?—It is made up, but not checked.

1436. Was that account in excess of what you put down last?—The person employed by the relieving officer tells me it is in excess of the amount of the bills promised.

1437. And you went by the out-door relief lists made up by Moran?—Yes.

1438. Mr. Robinson.—Can you ascertain the difference between the amount furnished by the relieving officers in the relief lists and the contractor's bills furnished to the present time?—Yes.

1439. Mr. Louden.—Are you aware that most of the meal supplied to Clare Island was given direct to the relieving officer by the guardians, and never came from the contractor's at all?—Some of it; but not the most of it.

1440. Explain how much, so that the Commissioners may understand?—Well, John Moran got money for £12 worth of meal, and also an order for supply on

the contractor, to John Stanton for £34 worth of meal, and with that exception, and a bill of £33 2s. 9d. from Thomas Reilly, and small bills for ordinary relief, there is no other claim for Clare Island.

1441. Mr. Robinson.—In some cases did you find your statement on the relief lists filled up by the relieving officers, but in this case on bills of the contractors?—In some on the relieving officers' relief lists, but since the accounts went to the relieving officers have been urged to send in the accounts, and as they came in I checked them, and I have a considerable number checked.

1442. Is none of this expenditure founded on the out-door relief lists?—No, it could not be.

1443. Are any of the out-door relief lists made up?—Some are, and some are not.

1444. Do you know those that are?—Ballymore North and Ballymore South are fully complete.

1445. Are these the only two?—I cannot say that in any of the other accounts I examined they are entirely accurate, but in no case has the balance been reduced to any appreciable extent.

1446. In these two cases are the items here in this statement exactly in accordance with the out-door relief list furnished by the relieving officer?—Yes.

1447. Only in these two cases?—Yes. There is one man who made up his account (McGinn) his out-door relief, which appears to be fully sanctioned in every particular by the guardians, and initiated by the chairman—that account of expenditure for out-door relief is £9 17s. over and above the bills furnished by the contractor, and I believe that every bill for relief less 6d. given in that case is in my possession.

1448. Well, what figure do you put on the list for this division?—I put in the bill. There is, as I say, a small difference of £3 7s.

1449. Does this return of expenditure read out by you, include any of the ordinary cases of out-door relief?—No, it includes the relief commenced in the week ending 1st of May, and terminating 27th July.

1450. Does it include any cases which formerly would be classed under the heading of ordinary out-door relief?—Yes, the whole of them.

1451. During these weeks then, there was no out-door relief given under the ordinary law?—No, it was all, by the direction of the Board of Guardians, charged to relief under the Relief Act.

1452. Have you a return of the numbers relieved each week?—Yes.

1453. Read out the numbers of cases and persons relieved commencing the week ending 2nd of January?—The return is as follows.

That is the list, which I certify to be accurate.—(See Appendix A, Tables I. and III.)

1454. You include there the persons relieved under the Relief Act and those relieved under the ordinary poor law?—I have.

1455. Mr. Robinson.—How do you determine them?—Through the Relieving Officer's Application and Report Book.

1456. There was no distinguishing mark that I could see on looking through the Relieving Officer's Report Book; I could see nothing as to the circumstances of the people?—I went through the books, and got information from the Relieving Officers that they were persons who would be relievable under the poor law.

1457. Under the head of "Observations" there certainly was nothing to show that?—No; inquiry on the point was necessary.

1458. And you inquired in every one of these cases?—Yes.

1459. You believe this return to be accurate?—Yes.

1460. Strictly accurate?—Well, perhaps there might be some difficulty about saying that, having regard to the fact that there was a good deal of hurry.

1461. Mr. Robinson.—Have you a return showing the number of persons in receipt of relief each week, according to electoral divisions?—It is not ready yet.

1463. Are you preparing it?—Yes.

1463. How far have you gone?—As far as June. Here are the original returns prepared from the relieving officers' lists, and covering the entire time. Since you told me on Wednesday, no effort has been spared, but I have not had time yet to bring it all out according to electoral divisions. Here are the original figures, and it is simply a matter of copying work.

1464. There is another return of the admissions to the workhouse week by week—is it accurate?—Yes; I checked it.

1465. Mr. Robinson.—Now, about the manner of administering relief—just confine yourself to the proceedings in the boardroom: the relief, I understand, was authorized on the 29th of April?—The Guardians of the Westport Union were pressed very much about the distress, and the Guardians sent to the Local Government Board for authority to anticipate the Relief Act, and to that they received a reply.

1466. What then happened?—That was on the 22nd of April that the reply came, and a meeting was summoned for the following Saturday, the 24th, and then the relieving officers were instructed to commence on the following Monday.

Mr. Louisa.—All the instructions are in writing.

1467. Mr. Robinson.—The only instructions are those recorded on the minutes: is that so?—Yes; all were recorded on the minutes.

1467a. Were there no verbal instructions?—No, not that I am aware of.

1468. Saturday, the 24th, was the adjourned meeting?—Yes; on the 22nd of April the telegram came. On the 24th the following minutes are recorded: I should mention that Captain Sampson was present:—

"After conferring with Captain Sampson, and thanking him for his prompt and kindly attendance, it was resolved:—

"First. That all relief to be given under the Relief of Distress Act now being passed shall be given on the following conditions, as set forth in the circular of instructions of the Local Government Board which accompanies their letter of the 20th instant, and having regard to their telegram of the 22nd instant on the subject.

"Second. That all relief to able-bodied men shall be in the form of meal only, on tickets, and that each person be required to work for eight hours daily, subject to the following conditions, viz., relief to be given to destitute persons only.

"Third. Able-bodied persons shall be employed in the repair of roads, or other useful works, not under contract or other contract, as shall be agreed to by the Board of Guardians at their meetings.

"Fourth. Able-bodied persons so employed shall each receive meal to the value of 1s. 6d. for each day's work.

"Fifth. Heads of families who have crops to sow may work for three days weekly, and also, when any such person has more than four children, he may receive 2s. worth of meal for each day's work—not to exceed 6s. weekly.

"Sixth. No able-bodied person who is earning wages shall be allowed relief or employment in such work.

"Seventh. No able-bodied person shall be so employed who is not destitute.

"Eighth. The Guardians of, or resident in, the respective electoral divisions are appointed committees to employ gangers to superintend such works therein—such gangers to receive meal to the value of 2s. daily.

"Ninth. That the relieving officers be appointed to superintend the works in their respective districts, and that temporary relieving officers be employed to assist them, at 12s. a week."

Then comes the appointment of the assistant relieving officers, as defined by the resolution.

1469. Mr. Robinson.—Were the duties of the assistant relieving officers defined by resolution?—They were appointed, not more.

1470. Were they to assist the relieving officers, or were they to have sole charge of separate districts?—Well, they were appointed as temporary assistant relieving officers, and, as far as I see, it was not distinctly specified that they were to be independent, nor is it defined, on the other hand, that they were to keep accounts separately by themselves, wholly irrespective of the permanent relieving officer of the district.

1471. But did the guardians regard the permanent relieving officer at Ashill as responsible for the temporary relieving officer?—I cannot say that.

1472. Had the temporary relieving officers charge of separate electoral divisions?—Yes.

1473. Then they were independent, though temporary and assistant?—Yes.

1474. How often did these assistants attend the Board meetings?—Sometimes weekly, and sometimes fortnightly. It depended upon the distance.

1475. Did the guardians give instructions that the meal was only to be given by tickets?—Yes.

1476. To be signed by the relieving officer?—Yes.

1477. And the assistant relieving officers being independent, were empowered to sign tickets?—Yes.

1477. I presume the relieving officers never signed tickets for any people outside their own districts?—Not that I heard of.

1478. Were these tickets addressed to a particular contractor?—No.

1479. What was the wording of these tickets?—The name of the contractor was not on them. They were to "a" contractor.

1480. How many contractors were there?—133 in the union, and the tickets were what are called open tickets.

1481. And merely mentioned the amount?—Yes; that is all.

1482. They were signed by the relieving officer?—Yes.

1483. Were they countersigned by you?—No; they were initialed before they went out, except during the first week.

1484. After that they were?—Yes.

1485. What was the reason for directing you to do that?—To authenticate them.

1486. So that other persons would not get hold of the tickets?—Yes; it was considered a precaution.

1487. Now as to the appointment of contractors, how was that arranged?—The guardians advertised for them, and took tenders, and entered into the contracts in the usual way.

1488. Was each contractor appointed for his own electoral division?—No.

1489. How then was it settled?—No contractor was appointed for any specific division at all.

1490. Did not that cause a great deal of confusion?—Yes; I must say it caused inextricable confusion.

1491. Did you continue to sign these tickets to the end?—Yes.

1492. Were they printed in town?—Yes, they were purchased in Westport, and I initialed them in red ink.

1493. In blank?—Yes, before giving them to the relieving officers.

1494. Was anything said or done with reference to not confining the contractors to their own particular divisions?—Yes; it was decided after conversation here, in which Captain Sampson took part, to have open tickets.

1495. Was anything put on the minutes on the subject?—No.

1496. You have no knowledge of anything outside the Boardroom?—No.

1497. Was any one authorized by the guardians to put destitute persons on the works, except the relieving officers?—No; and any one who did so acted ultra vires.

1498. Did any persons do so?—No, not to my knowledge.

Witness.
Mr. John
Lyon

Witness.
Mr. John
Fenn.

1506. How long did the Guardians sit during the day?—Sometimes until 10 o'clock and on one memorable occasion until midnight.

1507. When were the books signed by the Guardians—first tell me was the ordinary business discharged on the ordinary days?—Yes.

Mr. Louden.—Did the Guardians not adjourn from day to day?—Yes, from Thursday to Friday, and so on.

1508. Mr. Robinson.—They prolonged the Board in fact?—Yes.

1509. When were the outdoor relief books written up?—Not until the relief was some time in operation, say a fortnight.

1510. What explanation did the Relieving Officers give of this?—They were called on frequently to explain, and they said they could not do more, the hurry and rush was so great. I may mention that they were authorized at first not to put down the names of the family—of the children—but the Local Government Board held that the books should be kept according to law, and that the names of the wife and children should appear on the books. That caused considerable delay.

1511. Can you remember how many were put on in the first week of the relief?—There were 14,505.

1512. All over the whole Union?—Yes, the whole thirty-one divisions.

1513. How were they distributed, were there more in one division than in another?—I think it was pretty proportionate to the population.

1514. What was the first meeting after the 25th of April?—The 4th of May was the next.

1515. Were the application and report books written up then?—No.

1516. I suppose, then, the 13th of May was the next meeting?—Yes.

1517. Were they written up then?—I could not tell you from recollection. I know that the Relieving Officers attended the meeting.

1518. Did they not bring in their books?—Yes.

1519. And did they tell the Guardians that they were not written up?—Yes.

1520. And did the Guardians instruct them to write up their books as soon as possible?—Yes.

1521. How soon after that were the books written up?—They were written up fully, I should say, about a month after, when they were able to get the names of the wives and children.

1522. Were they written up then about the 24th of May?—Yes.

1523. They were then written up to that date?—Well no, not all, there were some in arrears again.

1524. Were most of them in arrears?—No.

1525. Were most of them written up by that date?—Yes.

1526. And did the Guardians sign them?—Yes.

1527. And did they sign for the next week?—Yes.

1528. In signing these books did they sign for the week previously?—Yes, for the week previous.

1529. As soon as the application and report books were written up, did the Guardians sign for the week which was to follow?—In some cases they defined the duration of relief, but in the majority of cases they did not.

1530. When the Guardians granted relief on, say Saturday 1st, did the chairman sign for relief to be given from the 1st to the 7th, or for relief from the 25th to the 1st?—It was for the current week, but not always; in a great number of cases they limited it to a fortnight or so.

1531. Am I correct in saying that the Guardians approved of provisional relief to be given, but did not order new relief?—Well, in some cases they continued the relief, and in some cases they cancelled it.

1532. In the majority of cases did the Guardians give directions for the future or had their action reference to the past?—To what had been done.

1533. As a matter of fact had the Relieving Officer authority to do so what he liked?—He had discretion as Relieving Officer.

1534. As soon as the application and report books were written up did you check them week by week?—I proceeded to get them registered. I may mention however that there are some of them not written up yet.

1535. Do you know how they filled up their application and report books?—In the majority of cases from the black tickets. At first there was a considerable amount of confusion. When the Relief of Distress Act came into operation, the guardians directed that all cases should be inquired into and entered in the books—the same books as in the case of the ordinary outdoor relief.

1536. But the persons who were under ordinary outdoor relief did not work?—No.

1537. Were any persons relieved under the Poor Relief Act who did not work?—No, I think not; but I could not answer positively.

1538. As a matter of fact, had the Relieving Officers power to determine who was to work and who was not?—Yes; but according to the resolution already read there were certain restrictions that all relief should be on tickets, and that each person be required to work eight hours a day, subject to the rules which I have read for you.

1539. Are you aware whether the persons produced their tickets to the contractors each week they were given to them?—I am not aware.

1540. Are you aware whether the contractors borrowed tickets presented to them after the works ceased?—I am not aware of such a case.

1541. You do not know if there are any outstanding tickets?—No.

1542. Have you any reason to believe there are?—Well, judging from the two or three little bills that come in, perhaps there may have been, but they must have been very few.

1543. Did the guardians pass a resolution, fixing the limit up to which the tickets should be presented?—No.

1544. What is the present state of the Relieving Officers' books?—All will be completed within a week.

1545. All the relief lists?—Yes, and the guardians have taken very stringent steps by resolution and verbal orders to stimulate them.

1546. How soon after the relief ceased, did you begin to get the bills?—I commenced in June, because payments were made in June on account.

1547. When did you explain that they should finish sending in their accounts?—The first week in August was the time. I explained that, and advertised in the local papers.

1548. Can you let us know all the districts in which the amount returned by the Relieving Officers is in excess of the contractor's account?—I cannot do so now, but I will prepare a return.

1549. Is it much or little?—Not much at all.

1550. As to the purchase of tools, how was it managed?—The guardians advertised for a week for coopers, hand-barrows, hammers, &c.

1551. Have you any resolution passed about disposing of them?—Yes, by public advertisement.

1552. Mr. Robinson.—Give the date of the appointment of the contractors whose tenders were accepted?—4th of May, and here are the bonds.

1553. Were any steps taken to make the people know who were the contractors in their neighbourhood?—It was done by the Relieving Officer. I did not publish any advertisement about the names.

1554. Were many relieved by the contractors outside their own district?—Yes, a great many from Newport in Westport, and Glenties Island and Achill in Newport.

1555. Mr. Louden.—You said the ordinary relief was abolished, so to speak, with the extraordinary after the 24th of April?—Yes, they were both together.

1556. Up to the 24th April, take the old Westport Union as distinguished from the present, was there any outdoor relief given in the union to any

great extent?—No. In Westport Union it was about the same as in previous years.

1550. And wasn't not because of the very small amount and the trouble and delay that would be occasioned by keeping two separate accounts—was not that one of the reasons why the thing was amalgamated?—Well, it would not involve separate accounts, but it was for the sake of general convenience.

1551. Your evidence is, that so far as the old Westport Union is concerned, the ordinary outdoor relief was almost nil?—About £15 a year.

1552. As to the open tickets, you say the system gave rise to confusion?—Yes.

1553. Suppose we had depots instead of the system adopted would that have worked better—would it have been possible to relieve the people by a system of depots?—I think a depot or two would have been better for the sake of the accounts.

1554. Mr. Loudon.—Do not mind about the accounts, but could we have relieved the people by depots—would it have worked?—I think so. But in saying that I ask permission to say that the Guardians were not unanimous about the tickets.

1555. Is it not a fact that on several occasions the Guardians endeavoured to get meat to send to Achill, in Westport, and failed?—Yes.

1556. And they would get no meat?—Yes.

1557. Is it not the fact that the Guardians drew on the ordinary accounts of the Union in order to be able to send meat to Achill?—Yes.

1558. Could that meat have been supplied in Achill Electoral Division?—I cannot say that. It was stated that the meat would not be given there.

1559. Had not the Achill contractors had their supplies cut off, or cut short in Westport?—Yes.

1560. Did they not then depend on what they get in Westport?—Yes.

1561. And their credit was cut short too?—Yes.

1562. And therefore it would be impossible for them to supply meat in Achill?—Yes, according to the reports that came in here.

1563. As to the appointment of contractors is it not a fact that when we advertised a large number of contractors sent in a common tender at a uniform price?—Yes.

1564. And the price was a low one—£6 a ton?—Yes, and the document is here showing the joint tender, and there is written on it by the chairman—"accepted on condition that the persons who have signed this tender will bind themselves jointly and severally liable for the execution of the contract."

1565. Although injurious or inconvenient from the point of view of keeping accounts was it not a great advantage to the Relieving Officers and to the public advantage to have so many contractors?—It was certainly of advantage that the Relieving Officers should not have the selection of the contractors.

Mr. Robinson.—That is not the question.

1566. Mr. Loudon.—Telling into consideration the very large number of persons relieved was it not a convenience to the Relieving Officers, and to the public, and the poor, that there should be many places to obtain meat and have no crowding in any place?—That is a question I would rather not offer an opinion about.

1567. Now as to the application and report books not being made up to the first week, is it not a fact that before the Poor Relief Act was passed, some thousands of people congregated around this house, crying out for food, and that the clergy appeared here too and called on the Guardians to give the people food?—Yes.

1568. Mr. Robinson.—How soon before the passing of the bill was that?—A couple of weeks.

1569. Mr. Loudon.—Did not the Board of Guardians, finding that the people were in danger, and that they were actually at the time charged with the death of one woman by starvation, write to the Local Government Board for authority to anticipate the Act?—Yes.

1570. And did they?—Yes.

1571. And that time how many application books had you at your disposal?—About fifteen.

1572. Had you any to give to the Relieving Officers?—Not sufficient; but I telegraphed for a supply.

1573. How long was it before they were down?—A week.

1574. As a matter of fact, did not only some come down?—Well, in a week sufficient came to supply the Relieving Officers, but the work they had done was valuable for they had not put in the names of the wives and families.

1575. That is another matter. In the first week, in which the application books were not made up, that was the week in which you had not sufficient books, and you wired for a supply?—Yes, but it is only right I should explain.

1576. You mentioned to Mr. Robinson that the first week there were no application books made up, and I merely ask you was not that the week when the application books were being supplied by Thom?—No, that is not exactly the cause of it—the books were down in a week.

1577. Well, were we not anticipating the Act?—Yes, but even so.

1578. Is not that the week you allude to as the first week?—Yes.

1579. Mr. Robinson.—They were down about a week afterwards?—Yes; I can give the exact date afterwards. I had sufficient books for two years.

1580. How so?—I mean, if this Act had not come into force, I had sufficient for two years.

1581. Mr. Loudon.—You say the guardians gave the relieving officers a discretion?—They ordered them to give relief.

1582. Is it not a fact that everything is down in writing, and is there anything to justify you in saying that the guardians gave the relieving officers a discretion?—Well, they simply could not take from them a power which they possess.

1583. Were the guardians in the habit of striking out many names of persons put on by the relieving officers?—Yes.

1584. Do the application books contain the names of persons who were struck out by the guardians, believing that they should not be on?—Yes.

1585. That happened on several occasions?—Yes.

1586. Showing that the guardians exercised the strictest supervision over the action of the relieving officers?—Yes.

1587. Mr. Robinson.—You had fifteen books?—Yes.

1588. Who did you give them to?—To those who asked first for them, and the relieving officers did not come to me until they were a week at work.

1589. And then you gave them the fifteen books?—Yes, all the books I had.

1590. Well now, you said, I think, that the relieving officers had power to put on whom they pleased, but, of course, it was the guardians who had the giving of relief?—Quite so; any relief given by the relieving officer was subject to the approval of the Board of guardians.

1591. The guardians exercised, as a matter of fact, a controlling power?—Yes.

1592. Mr. Loudon.—Now, as to there being no name of a contractor on the tickets, you said the tickets were "open tickets," addressed to "a" contractor?—Yes.

1593. As a matter of fact, was not that with the object of being a convenience, and preventing overcrowding?—Yes.

1594. Mr. Robinson.—Take the Minute Book of the 13th of May; are all the resolutions that were carried, in that rough Minute Book?—Yes.

1595. Read the resolution commencing "To further reduce"—"To further reduce the expenditure, the guardians now make the following order, viz.—The relieving officers are directed to strike off from the number of persons, now receiving relief for labour

Witness.

Mr. John
Egan

Witness:
Mr. John
Fagan.

given, fifty in every hundred, taking care that the poorest and most destitute shall be retained."

Mr. Louden.—It is only right that I should read the next paragraph, which is an explanatory and qualifying one:—"The Board, in making such reduction in the number of persons receiving relief, feel themselves constrained to do so on financial grounds only. They are aware that the persons so struck off are in the deepest poverty, and will be, unquestionably,

destitute and starving before the crops grow. As these persons reach the starvation stage, they will be restored to the relief works. In the meanwhile, the relieving officers are instructed to give relief in cases of urgent necessity, but not to admit any further cases on the relief works until further orders." These words are quoted from the Local Government Board's orders in their circular.

Michael Corrigan, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Michael
Corrigan.

1595. Mr. Robinson.—What divisions have you got?—Ballycorry, North and South.

1596. What is the population of your district?—I do not exactly know.

1597. How long have you been relieving officer?—Three years.

1598. You were relieving officer in the old Newport Union?—Yes.

1599. Were many people getting out-door relief, there, up to the passing of the Relief Act?—No.

1600. Can you give, roughly, the amount?—Well, about 5s. or 6s., or 7s. a week, I would say.

1601. Were there cases of urgent necessity?—Yes.

1602. And I presume none received it without the sanction of the guardians?—By order of the guardians.

1603. Then it was not provisional relief?—Yes, when required, and then sanctioned.

1604. Did you attend the meeting of the guardians on the 24th of April?—Yes.

1605. Did you receive a copy of instructions contained in the resolution of the guardians?—Yes.

1606. Did you go back to your district then?—Yes.

1607. And proceed to carry out the guardians' instructions?—Yes.

1608. How did you interpret the guardians' instructions?—The works were started.

Mr. Louden.—It is all in writing.

Witness.—The first works were roads leading to the chapel at Ballycorry and another at Durron, and a third road.

1609. Mr. Robinson.—Which was the principal work?—Well, they are all about the same.

1610. What was the exact amount of money expended on your two divisions in the progress of the works?—About £400 for the half year.

1611. When you received application for relief from a person, what did you do? Did you visit their home?—No, I had an idea of their houses.

1612. Did you not visit their homes?—Some of them. I was conversant with the circumstances of the people.

1613. You had a very large number of applications?—Yes.

1614. And it would have been almost impossible to have visited them all?—Yes.

1615. You were not acquainted with their circumstances from day to day?—No, but I had a sufficient knowledge of them to know whether they were fit cases or not.

1616. When you received an application for relief and did not visit them, did you give them an order for the works?—Yes.

1617. A written order?—No, verbal.

1618. Did you name the work?—Yes.

1619. And did you keep a book showing the work you put each man on?—Yes.

1620. You wrote him down in your book?—Yes.

1621. Who superintended the works in your division?—Gangers, who were paid by relief. I visited the works myself on the date of the first week, and sent the men on the works to start.

1622. And these people all went on the works at once?—Yes.

1623. Did any go on when you did not tell to go on?—Not that week.

1624. Did the gangmen return you the list of men who worked?—Yes.

1625. When?—Weekly.

1626. When you put a man on the works, how long did you put him on for?—Three days or a week, according to illness.

1627. When did you give the tickets?—Generally on Saturday night.

1628. For the week he worked or the week to follow?—The week he worked.

1629. If he was a destitute man how did he last out until Saturday?—Well he did what he could for a few days.

1630. Where did you give out-door relief tickets?—Everywhere; sometimes at the works.

1631. Was it on Saturday evenings?—Yes, and provisional relief at any time I would meet them, and thought them deserving cases.

1632. And did you give them out yourself?—Yes.

1633. And sign them?—Yes, myself and assistants.

1634. Did you keep the books?—Yes.

1635. When did these people present their tickets?—Immediately.

1636. Who was the contractor?—James Cleary, junior.

1637. Is he any relation of the guardian?—Son.

1638. Is he petty sessions clerk?—Yes, but he was contractor as well.

1639. These people presented their tickets to Cleary and he honoured them?—Yes.

1640. Had you any knowledge of persons asking for anything except what was specified on the tickets?—No.

1641. As to writing up your books, how did you write up your application and report book?—I used to write it up whenever I had the opportunity.

1642. You were very hard worked?—Yes.

1643. You had an assistant?—Yes, James Conway.

1644. What divisions had he?—We worked the same divisions together.

1645. What number did you put on the first week?—The number of applications was about 291.

1646. You filled in your application and report book whenever you got the chance?—Yes.

1647. What did you fill it in from?—From what they told me—notes I took of the number in family, &c.

1648. Did you attend the works the following week and fill in applications there?—I entered the names when I ordered them to go on the works. [Book produced.]

1649. When you ordered a man on you put his name in that book?—Yes.

1650. Who gave you that book?—The guardian.

1651. And from that book you filled in your application and report book?—Yes.

1652. When did you first get your application and report book from the Clerk of the Union?—There were no application and report books for a week or so—there was a delay.

1653. Was it a week or fortnight?—It was about a fortnight after the works started.

1654. Then you wrote them up from that, and the guardians sanctioned what had been done?—Yes.

1655. From what period were the people put on the works?—Until such period as we could bring the cases forward at the Board meeting.

1656. Then did the guardians put them on again?—Yes, after consultation with the guardians conversant with the district.

1657. Did you ever sign any tickets in blank?—No.

1658. Did you ever sign for two stones of meal without putting in the man's name?—I would give the list to the contractor in blank.

1659. But in filling in the ticket to the contractor did you put in the name?—We got paper books for the purpose.

1660. What I want to know is this—on the tickets did you merely say the amount of meal, without saying the name of the person to receive it?—I always mentioned the name of the person to receive it.

1661. And in the book?—Yes.

1662. Were those tickets for two weeks' supply to be issued at a time?—I am not aware of it.

1663. Did any people from adjoining districts come and receive work in your division?—I am not aware of it, except one, I think.

1664. How often did you attend the board?—Weekly.

1665. Were any persons ever put on the works by anyone but you?—I am not aware of it.

1666. Were any works started in your district, except by yourself?—There were.

1667. By whom were they?—By other parties in the district.

1668. Did you recognise the persons put on these works?—I gave them provisional relief, such as required it.

1669. Although they were receiving relief on the other works?—Yes.

1670. Why did you do that; if they were receiving relief at the other works, surely they were not destitute?—I did not know at the time.

1671. You employed one out of each family?—Yes.

1672. Are any tickets outstanding in your district?—I am not aware—I believe there are none.

1673. Did Mr. Cleary return to you each week, the names of those to whom he gave meal?—To the guardians he did.

1674. He did not return them to you?—No.

1675. Well, how did you distinguish ordinary cases from those relieved under the Poor Relief Act?—I was doing what I could to relieve the distress, as it existed at the time.

1676. And I presume your hands were full?—Yes.

1677. Did you consult the guardians as to whom you were to put on the works?—Yes.

1678. What means had you of knowing or deciding as to the chargeability of all the people you relieved, did any strange person, you knew nothing about, come to you?—No, I knew the people myself.

1679. Do you think many persons from the Ballycroy district brought their tickets outside of Ballycroy?—No, I am not aware.

1680. Who else started works besides you?—There were a few.

1681. Private charities?—Yes.

1682. Were many persons employed on these private charities?—There were.

1683. During the time the guardians reduced the relief by 50 per cent., did you give much provisional relief, or many additional orders to the workhouse?—Yes, I had to continue the provisional relief. There were not many in the workhouse.

1684. How much were you able to reduce your relief by during that time?—About a half, or perhaps a third—a half say.

1685. How were the remaining half provided for?

—We had to continue provisional relief to the 24th of July.

1686. But you were able to cut off one half in obedience to the guardians?—Yes, I endeavoured to do so.

1687. Well, how much did you cut off?—I would not like to say a half.

1688. Well how much?—About a third.

1689. And were you able to do that without ceasing the people much suffering?—Well, I used my discretion as regards cutting some off.

1690. Were there more additional admissions to the workhouse in consequence of this?—No.

1691. Had you any knowledge of the private funds used for the relief of the people?—No.

1692. Did you think it was a risky thing, striking off that number?—Most certainly I did.

1693. Did you represent that to the guardians?—I did.

1694. Were the works which were carried out works of utility?—Yes.

1695. And likely to be permanent?—Yes.

1696. Did you select the gangers?—Yes.

1697. What influenced you in the selection?—That they were men born a knowledge of such works.

1698. Under the head "Duration of relief afforded," I see here this is marked "off," and after this 3s. is marked?—That was given provisionally. The 3s. is the amount of value for the week ended 24th July. The guardians of the division went over it.

1699. Show me some case in this book where the guardians ordered you to give relief for the following weeks?—I have none.

1700. Then it was always provisional relief?—Yes, by me.

1701. Then, as a matter of fact, you had entire control of who you would put on and who you would put off?—Yes, to that extent.

1702. Mr. Robinson.—On what day did you first bring before the guardians a list of those employed?—I came upon the following week after the 24th of April to the boardroom.

1703. The first meeting after the works were commenced?—Yes.

1704. What day did the works begin?—The 26th of April, Monday.

1705. Did you keep a separate list of persons on outdoor relief under the ordinary law?—No; I made no distinction.

1706. Did you furnish the clerk with a list of those in receipt of relief under the ordinary law?—No; I made no distinction at all.

1707. Have you ever given him a list of persons in receipt of relief under the ordinary law during the month the works were in existence?—No. I gave it to him, the whole lot, making no distinction.

1708. Did you give him information that would enable him to distinguish them?—No.

1709. Mr. Lawson.—Were there any of them chargeable to the rates?—Yes, four or five cases.

1710. Mr. Robinson.—Was relief given out by the contractors at convenient places, or at Cleary's own house?—They made no complaint.

1711. Where was it given out?—At Mr. Cleary's.

1712. At his house?—Yes.

1713. Mr. Cleary, junior's, or his father's?—I cannot say.

1714. You do not know where it was given out?—No. Young Mr. Cleary was appointed contractor, and I made the orders on him.

1715. Where does young Mr. Cleary live?—At Ballycroy.

1716. With his father?—Yes.

1717. Mr. Robinson.—Has he any separate store?—I cannot say.

1718. Do you know the district?—Yes.

1719. Is there any place where Mr. Cleary keeps a shop?—Yes, and I am sure young Mr. Cleary has a portion of the house.

Witness.
Mr Michael
Carrigan.

1713. Which portion?—I do not know.
1720. Does he keep a separate establishment from his father?—I don't know.

1721. Do they live in the same house?—Yes.

1722. There was a complaint made against you by Neill Conway and others?—Yes.

1723. That you refused relief to those who were destitute and gave it to those who were not?—Yes.

1724. What did you say in reply?—Was anyone refused by you?—No.

1725. Were any persons not destitute given relief by you?—No.

Mr. Robinson.—Neill Conway objects to it being given to himself.

Witness.—It was his son wanted it.

1727. Mr. Lonsdale.—You spoke of provisional relief being given, I presume you referred to relief given in continuation by the guardians from time to time in your application book?—No, not always.

Mr. Lonsdale.—Listen to this, 10th of May, "It is hereby ordered that all relief works be suspended until Friday next in order that the relieving officers may have all cases and persons receiving relief entered in their application and report book, when the guardians will consider each case on its merits and pass or reject same." Did you get a copy of that resolution?—I did.

1728. On the 10th of May?—Yes.

Mr. Lonsdale.—Now I would ask the clerk of the union to hand in the document showing when the books came from Thorne's and showing that the guardians did not lose any time.

1729. Mr. Robinson.—Did you suspend relief?—Witness.—Yes.

1730. Did you bring your book up on the next Board day?—Yes.

1731. On the 13th of May?—Yes.

1732. What action was taken by the guardians?—Well, they had no much to do, it was quite impossible for them to attend fully. They did all they could.

1733. Did they approve of the provisional relief given before the 13th of May?—They did.

1734. Could you show us those approved indicated on the book?—I can't say if it is in mine.

1735. You attended the Board meeting next after the order of the 10th of May?—Yes, but the chairman could not attend to it. I came here with the books and could not be attended to.

1736. Did you come on the 20th?—The 24th was the first day my book was ruled.

1737. You got the order of the 10th of May, the receipt of which you acknowledge, ordering you to have all cases and persons entered in your book. The next meeting was the 14th. Do I understand you to say that your books were not ruled till the 24th?—Yes.

1738. Did they take any action on the 13th?—No.

1739. Or the 17th?—No.

1740. Now as regards your books, they are fairly well kept, but there is a blank in every case as to the duration of relief?—It was for provisional relief.

1741. Mr. Lonsdale.—Now did you get a copy of this, You were asked did you strike off 50 per cent., and you said no, you struck off about one-third. Did you receive a copy of this?—As those persons touch the starvation stage they will be restored to the relief works. In the meantime the relieving officers are instructed to give relief in cases of urgent necessity?—Yes.

1742. You acted on that?—Yes.

1743. And it was acting on these instructions, that instead of knocking off 50 per cent. you only knocked off one-third?—Yes, I struck about one-third off the books.

1744. Would you not have struck 50 per cent. off unless they were destitute?—I could not possibly strike 50 per cent. off.

1745. Was there not private relief given in that district?—I am not aware of it.

1746. Now, acting on this resolution, did you not reduce to the works such persons as became absolutely destitute, and touched the starvation stage?—Yes.

1747. You got an order from the guardians to put on no one but persons absolutely destitute?—Yes.

1748. Did you act on that?—I did; I did what I could.

1749. Mr. Robinson.—Every one in receipt of relief worked on the roads?—Yes; some of them, however, were unable to work.

1750. Mr. Lonsdale.—I think you said that some of the persons went on the works the first week without your authority?—Yes, they did.

1751. Did these persons get put on the application and report book by you?—All the applications made to me were put on my books.

1752. Were there not persons who worked, and who were not on the application books?—Not under my control.

1753. Did not persons work that you refused to acknowledge?—Did not persons come to work whom you did not acknowledge?—There did, certainly.

1754. Mr. Robinson.—On your works?—No.

1755. There were other works started by private charity?—Yes.

1756. Were applications made to you to put persons working there on your book?—No.

1757. Mr. Lonsdale.—Did the guardians sanction payment to anyone without your authority?—I am not aware.

1758. Does not Mr. Cleary, the guardian, keep a public house at Ballycorry—is he not a licensed publican?—He is.

1759. Is his son in the meal trade?—He is.

1760. Mr. Cleary, I believe, is a man of wealth?—He is, I believe, but I really can't say.

1761. Has he not given the man a section of his business for a considerable time?—I am not aware.

James Conway, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Mr James
Conway.

1762. Mr. Robinson.—You are a relieving officer?—Yes.

1763. What district did you work in?—Ballycorry North.

1764. In filling in the tickets you inserted the name of the recipient?—Yes.

1765. You kept the name in the book also?—Yes.

1766. They were open tickets?—Yes, they were directed to a contractor.

1767. To whom were these tickets presented?—To Mr. James Cleary, Junee.

1768. He was the contractor authorized by the Board?—Yes.

1769. Where does he live?—At Ballycorry.

1770. Near his father's house?—He lives in his father's place. They have several stores outside,

the meal was given outside, but they live together. It is a large concern.

1771. But it is a separate establishment from the father's?—Yes, in the meal way.

1772. Had you separate report books?—Yes, separate application and report books.

1773. Had you books of your own distinct from Corrigan?—No, I assisted him in filling up the books. I visited the works daily in our division, and he resided in Ballycorry South.

1774. You heard the evidence of Mr. Corrigan?—Yes.

1775. Do you agree with his evidence?—Yes. Before we got the application and report books we kept a book like this, and I gave him a copy of the list with the tickets, and he used to number his sheet,

so that we would be able to write up the application and report book.

1775. When were the books ruled?—On the 24th May; that was because we had not the books.

1776. Mr. Robinson.—According to your knowledge, are you aware of any persons receiving anything except what was indicated on the tickets?—I never did. We mentioned the word Indian meal, but

I should say that in some extra cases we gave some little groceries or that. Such cases, however, were very few.

1777. Were applications made to you to put on persons employed on other works?—No.

1778. Mr. Badington.—Were no tickets given on any contractor but Mr. Coney by you or Corrigan?—No, he was well able to supply them.

Witness.
Mr. James
Coney

Mr. J. Egan recalled.

1779. Mr. Badington.—When did you receive applications and report books from Dublin?—On April 29th I got 30; on May 7th, 12. They wrote to me saying I had all they had had in hands. Here is their letter—"All in stock are forwarded," and afterwards they sent on the 25th of May I think, 20 or 24 more, and—

1780. When you got the first supply did you send them to the relieving officer?—Yes, I gave them out just as I got them without any delay whatever. I

had at first, as I explained, 12 in stock. These I gave out immediately.

1781. On what day did you give out the twenty you got from Dublin?—According as the relieving officers came here.

1782. Do you remember giving Corrigan one?—I gave all as they came, but I can't say to one in particular.

James Coney.—I did not get mine until the 18th of May, and if I had got the application book before I would have written it up.

Mr. J. Egan.

Peter Lavelle, Relieving Officer, sworn.

1783. Mr. Robinson.—What is your division?—Achill.

1784. Did you assist your father as Relieving Officer?—No. During the time of the relief of distress I had charge of a division of my own quite separate.

1785. Were there any other Relieving Officers on the island?—Yes.

1786. Did they all take charge of one electoral division?—Yes.

1787. And did they all work independently of Mr. Lavelle, the permanent relieving officer?—Yes.

1788. And you issued tickets yourself?—Yes.

1789. When were you appointed?—In April, I think.

1790. Along with all the others?—No; I was appointed previous to them.

1791. Just describe what proceedings you took when you were appointed, and when an application was made to you?—I put the name in the application and report book.

1792. But what means did you take to find out the destination of the applicants?—I filled in the tickets.

1793. How would that give you any information?—I went round and inquired.

1794. Into their homes?—Yes.

1795. In every case?—Yes.

1796. How many applications had you the first week?—One hundred and thirty or more.

1797. Did the numbers increase?—Yes; from 150 to 180 and 180 per week.

1798. Did you put no man into your application and report book without inquiring into his circumstances?—No.

1799. When you put a man on the works did you give him a ticket to the gauger?—I always attended where they worked once a week, and if a man came and applied to me for work, and was a proper case, I gave him an order to the gauger.

1800. Before you inquired into it?—Yes.

1801. But if you found he was not a proper case?—Then I struck him off.

1802. Did you issue tickets?—Yes, "to contractor." There were several contractors in the electoral division.

1803. You signed them yourself?—Yes.

1804. Were all the tickets you got signed by the Clerk?—In the first week they were not, but afterwards there was an order that he put his initial on them, and from that forth he did.

1805. What was the nature of the works?—Road-making.

1806. Did you carry out the instructions as to heads of families and not the others being employed?—I did.

1807. Did you consult the Guardians as to who to put on the works?—No.

1808. When the Guardians ruled your books did they rule them for the relief that had been given?—Yes.

1809. You put them on and left it to the Guardians to sanction them?—Yes.

1810. And if the Guardians did not think them destitute were they struck off?—Yes.

1811. Did you ever give tickets for two weeks' supply?—I did, sir.

1812. Under what circumstances?—It was generally the case we would run out of the ticket books, and then if it was in arrears from last week to this we would fill in two tickets at one time.

1813. And allow the man to get two weeks' supply at the same time?—Yes.

1814. What did the man do for the week he did not get a ticket?—We used to give them a list when we had no tickets, and they would go to the contractor, and then we would fill in the tickets and get back the list.

1815. Could they not get three weeks' relief in that way?—No.

1816. The contractor would give meal on the production of the list?—Yes, till he would get the ticket, and then he would not give more than that. In fact, the contractor would supply on the list until such time as he got the ticket.

1817. Were many tickets outstanding after the relief was given?—We had none.

1818. Have the contractors furnished their accounts up to date?—Yes, some have, but some have not put in their bills here at all.

1819. Can you name any of those whose bills are outstanding?—I cannot exactly say, but I believe there are some.

1820. There is only a garnish of yours?—Yes, but I believe it.

1821. On one occasion, I understand from the Chairman of the Board, that in consequence of the contractors refusing to send down a supply of meal to Achill, the Guardians sent down a certain amount of relief to your father?—Yes.

1822. How much was it?—First they sent down ten tons, and that was divided between the four divisions.

1823. What was done with it?—Each electoral division got portion of it. We distributed it among

Mr. Peter
Lavelle.

Witnesses—
Mr Peter
Lavelle

the contractors, and the second time the meal was sent down we distributed it amongst the people themselves. There was £180 worth distributed in that way.

1823. How did you square it with the contractors, having regard to what you distributed yourself?—I always deducted what we supplied them with from the bill, and on the bill we wrote, "per the Relieving Officer, so much."

1824. Mr. Robinson.—What was the contract price?—£5 a ton in Achill and Westport.

1825. When did you get your application and report books?—About the 18th or 20th May.

1826. Are you sure of that?—Yes.

1827. And you wrote up the previous week?—Yes.

1828. You brought down your book here and had it ruled?—Yes.

1829. How did you make up the previous week's account?—From the gangers' lists. I used to go round once or twice a week.

1830. Mr. Robinson.—Do you remember when the Guardians instructed you to cut off the relief by one-half?—Yes.

1831. How much did you cut off?—None at all.

1832. They exempted your division?—Yes.

1833. What is the population of your division?—You give the average number of people you relieved?—Heads of families or the whole?—

1834. The whole number?—880.

1835. Mr. Robinson.—Were any persons in receipt of relief before the Act came into force?—Yes, about 75 in the Achill division.

1836. Mr. Louden.—When the meal went to Achill were the Achill contractors in a position to give meal?—No.

1837. And by the action of the Guardians in sending down the meal it saved the people from starvation?—Yes; only for that there would have been hundreds of them dead by the ditches.

Hugh Lavelle, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Mr Hugh
Lavelle

1838. Mr. Robinson.—You are one of the Relieving Officers?—Yes.

1839. For what division?—Slievevea Division.

1840. What time did you get your application and report book?—I do not know.

1841. It was after the week commenced?—Yes, about a fortnight.

1842. Do you know when the week commenced?—The 2nd of May.

1843. How did you select the people?—That was decided.

1844. You selected them and put them on the work?—Yes.

1845. When did you bring their cases before the Board of Guardians?—Well, I did not attend regularly here.

1846. What was the first day you attended?—I can't exactly say. Peter Lavelle used to come up with the books.

1847. Can't you recollect when you first brought up your application and report book?—The 15th of May, I think, was the first.

1848. When did you first bring the names of persons in receipt of relief before the Guardians?—As soon as we put them in the application and report book.

1849. Then you filled it up from the commencement?—Yes.

1850. What data had you to go on?—We had the lists, and we copied from that.

1851. When you were putting people on relief did you inquire into the circumstances of each case?—Yes, to a certain extent, but I had no occasion to inquire for they were all destitute.

1852. Mr. Robinson.—How did you know that?—Because all were in receipt of private charity before that.

1853. Mr. Robinson.—Why were the contractors not able to supply meal?—They were too poor.

1854. Mr. Louden.—Now, I would like to ask you was not the following resolution adopted on the 10th of May, 1846, and a copy served on you?—"Relieving Officers are ordered to issue no tickets for works done in the present week until such case shall have been considered and approved by the Guardians—copies of above to be given to the Relieving Officers?"—Yes, I think I got a copy of that.

1855. Mr. Robinson.—Why did you not carry out that?—We did.

1856. Mr. Robinson.—Did you bring each case before the Guardians at the meeting following the receipt of the resolution?—Yes.

1857. Mr. Robinson.—Can you show any case in which persons were put on by the Guardians themselves, and not by you provisionally?—No.

1858. Did Mr. Eglin consult you as to the number of persons relievable under the Act?—Yes; we kept a separate account for the two classes of cases.

1859. Mr. Robinson.—After you got your application and report books, did you bring them here every week?—Yes; sometimes it was a fortnight.

1860. When you were first applied to for relief was the rush very great?—Yes.

1861. Mr. Louden.—Before this Bill was passed—the Poor Relief Act—is it not a fact that more money was being expended in Achill weekly in support of the poor than after the Bill was passed?—Yes.

1862. Did not the passing of the Act commonly known as Morley's Act produce this effect—that the private charities fell off?—Yes.

1863. As any rate the funds ceased to come into Achill?—Yes. The private funds stopped.

1864. Was not the effect of the passing of the Poor Relief Act to cut short, if not completely stop, the private charity?—Yes.

1865. Did you make no inquiries?—I had no occasion.

1866. Do you know the duties of a relieving officer?—Yes. Every one who applied to me for relief I put him on.

1867. You put him on the work?—Yes.

1868. And from that on to the books?—Yes.

1869. Just because they came and asked you?—Oh, I knew them all personally.

1870. Did any one apply to you that you did not put on?—No.

1871. Did you put on any one who did not apply to be put on?—No.

1872. Do you happen to know if there are any tickets outstanding?—I do not know.

1873. You heard the evidence of the other Lavelle?—Yes.

1874. Your mode of procedure, I presume, was the same?—Yes.

1875. You mentioned a list. What exactly was that list?—A list of names of the persons working.

1876. And on these lists the people got relief?—Yes.

1877. Suppose they did not get the tickets, what happened?—Well, they supplied it on the lists.

1878. The contractors were empowered to supply on the lists?—Yes.

1879. What check had you that in addition to the list they did not supply two weeks?—Because when he would give relief on the list he would know not to give it on the ticket.

1880. Having got relief on the list from, say an Achill contractor, could he not go to Westport with two tickets, and in that way get three weeks relief?—No; he had one week on the list and one on the ticket.

1881. I don't quite understand. You gave a list

to the contractor saying to supply so much. Did you then give the applicant at the end of the second week two tickets?—Sometimes.

1881. How do you know that the man did not go to Westport and present the two weeks' tickets?—I don't think he would.

1882. But he might have done so. What was to prevent him?—In checking the contractor's bills I would know it.

1883. You would find it out, but was there anything to prevent the man doing it?—No, not in that sense.

1884. Mr. Redington.—What kind of works were they?—Roads, and a wall around the churchyard.

1885. Were these works ordered by the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

1886. What did you do the first fortnight—before you came to the Board for orders?—The orders were brought to me by Peter Lavelle.

1887. Before the works were started?—Yes.

Mr. Lavelle.—What division had you charge of?—Shewenore.

1888. Mr. Robinson asked you did you put on persons without requiring what they demanded?—Yes.

1889. Did you know the condition of the people of Shewenore yourself?—Yes.

1890. Had you personal knowledge of them?—Yes.

1891. You know that the people of that division were nearly all supported by private charity?—Yes, for three months.

1892. Through the action of Father O'Connor and the other clergymen?—Yes.

1893. And that money was going there from Mr. Tuke and others?—Yes.

1894. So that you had a perfect general knowledge of the condition of these people who applied to you?—Yes, a perfect knowledge.

1895. And in giving them relief you knew that you were simply relieving destitute people?—Yes.

1896. When did you get the application and report book?—About a fortnight after the commencement of the works.

1897. Who gave it to you?—Peter Lavelle.

1898. He is Relieving Officer of Adhill?—Yes.

1899. You submitted your application to the Guardians as the others did?—Yes.

1900. As a matter of fact you were very much pressed there to keep the people alive?—Yes, of course we were.

1901. Did not Peter Lavelle sometimes bring up the books?—Yes, and I remained behind.

1902. Now as to the lists, you ran short of tickets?—Yes.

1903. How far is it from Shewenore to Westport?—About forty miles (Irish).

1904. And as a matter of fact you would have to come that forty miles to get a ticket book?—Yes.

1905. And in the meantime destitute people might die of starvation?—Indeed they might.

1906. Now what did you do about the lists?—I gave the names of these people on the lists to the contractors—whenever they wished to go to—they supplied them and I got back the lists.

1907. In every such case did you get back the lists before you gave the tickets?—Yes.

1908. Mr. Robinson.—You say you were so well acquainted with the circumstances of the people that it was unnecessary for you to make any inquiry?—Yes.

1909. But if you were not acquainted with them would you have had time to inquire?—Well, yes.

1910. How were you acquainted with the circumstances of the people from day to day?—I lived amongst them all my life.

1911. Have all the contractors sent in their bills?—I can't say.

Peter Lavelle resumed.

1912. Mr. Robinson.—You said that some contractors did not send in their bills?—Yes, though perhaps they sent them on and they went away in the house.

Mr. Ryan.—Not one went away.

Witness.—Bills have been sent into this office and within a week could not be found.

1913. Could you give any instance?—Yes, on the spot. Edward Clarke sent in a bill before here for £2 12s. 6d.

1914. When was it sent in?—A good while ago, and now lately it could not be found.

1915. How did you know it was sent in?—He told me.

1916. Might he not have made some mistake about it?—I know he told me.

1917. And did the clerk tell you he did not receive it?—No, this was the bill (produced).

1918. Is that the class of bill that is sent in to the Clerk?—That is only a copy of it.

Mr. Ryan.—Edward Clarke's bill came in, £5 2s., and he got two payments, £1 11s. and 18s. 9d. leaving a balance of £2 12s. 3d.

1919. Mr. Redington.—Is Bartley Gallagher a contractor?—

Mr. Ryan.—Yes, his account was £68 12s. and he got two payments amounting to £46 5s., leaving a balance of £22 7s.

William McCune, Relieving Officer, sworn.

1920. Mr. Robinson.—Did you hear the evidence of the other Relieving Officers?—Yes, part of it.

1921. Is the proceeding as described by them the same as the course adopted by you?—Yes.

1922. Do you know of any tickets outstanding?—No.

1923. Did you sometimes give two weeks' supply?—Yes.

1924. What is the average daily number of persons on the list of out-door relief in your district?—About 300 sometimes.

1925. Did many persons to whom you gave tickets, get relief in Newport?—Yes.

1926. Who were the contractors?—Every one who held a shop was a contractor.

1927. Mr. Robinson.—When did you first get your application book?—About the 16th of May.

1928. Was it Peter Lavelle gave it to you?—Yes.

1929. After you got the Application and Report Book, did you bring it up here?—Yes, regularly once a week for four or five weeks; after that, once a fortnight.

1930. And then it was ruled by the guardians?—Yes.

1931. And did the ruling refer to relief that had been given, or was to be given?—To relief that was given.

Witness
Mr. Hugh
Lavelle

Mr. William
McCune

William Green, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Witnesses.
—
Mr. Webb is
there.

1932. Mr. Robinson.—What divisions have you charge of?—Newport East, Newport West, Crumhorn, and Glenhest.

1933. To what extent did you get assistance?—To the extent of Glenhest and Newport East.

1934. Did you hear the evidence of the other relieving officers?—Partly.

1935. Was the manner in which you carried out the relief something similar?—Yes.

1936. Did men go on the works who got no tickets?—Very few. All who went on the works had tickets.

1937. Were the gangmen appointed from those who received relief?—Yes.

1938. Did they send into you the number on the works each day?—Yes.

1939. Did you direct your tickets to any particular contractors?—Yes.

1940. To whom?—To Patrick Clowry and William Mahoney.

1941. How did you come to select them?—It was the guardians. They were not contractors then. It was the guardians gave me the names. They gave me a list of shopkeepers, and told me to divide the tickets amongst them.

1942. After that I understood you did not put in the name of any contractor?—No, we put in nothing but "a" contractor.

1943. Do you believe the majority of those you relieved, got the relief in Newport or Westport?—I do not think they got it outside of my district.

1944. Was the relief given week by week, or every two weeks?—Always week by week.

1945. Do you know if the persons presented the tickets immediately they were issued?—Yes, or within a day or so.

1946. Up to what dates were the contractors authorized to receive tickets?—The 24th of July, to the best of my belief.

1947. And told not to receive any after that date?—Well, they were not told, but it was thoroughly understood.

1948. So that, if any tickets were outstanding after that time they were not credited for?—It was understood they would be makers.

1949. How did you fill up yours?—From the book.

1950. Did you put in the name of the persons?—Yes.

1951. And on the book?—Yes.

1952. Is your relief list written up?—Yes.

1953. When you brought your Application and Report Book before the guardians, was it signed by the guardians for provisional relief, or for works to be carried out afterwards?—In some cases for works already carried out.

1954. And in other cases did they direct you to put certain persons on?—Yes, any destitute persons.

1955. Did they ever order you to put people on, any from the 1st to the 13th?—I forget.

1956. Well, as a general rule, did the guardians sanction relief given by you, or order you to give additional relief?—They sanctioned relief I had already given.

1957. Had you much difficulty in writing up the books, and keeping them up to date?—No.

1958. Was any meal given to you to distribute?—None.

1959. Mr. Robinson.—When did you get your application and report book?—On the 24th of May I think.

1960. Mr. Robinson.—How many books have you?—Six (six in books).

1961. Are there any signatures on the 24th of May, &c.?—I think so.

1962. Take one of the first cases—take the case of John Yeatsell, how much was he ordered, and for how long?—12s., and for two weeks.

1963. In the order signed?—Yes.

1964. What is the date?—It is not dated at all, it is signed, but not dated.

1965. What week is it for?—The 1st and 22nd of May.

1966. Was that relief given?—It was.

1967. Did you bring your books up here for a week?—Yes.

1968. Did you get the books ruled every week?—No, if there was a pressure I would wait till the next Board day.

1969. Here is a case of relief for two weeks ending 22nd of May, and there is a date the 13th of June?—That would be the date it was initiated by the chairman.

1970. Did you bring the book up in the meantime?—Yes.

1971. And was it pressure of business that prevented it being initiated before?—Yes.

1972. Here is a case of Daniel McKeown, for two weeks ending 22nd of May, and apparently it was ruled on the 24th of June, how do you account for that?—I don't know.

1973. Did you bring it before the Board?—Yes.

1974. Did you bring all the cases?—Yes.

1975. Do you swear you had these cases entered before the 24th of June?—Yes.

1976. Is it not strange it was not ruled by the chairman?—I suppose he had not time.

1977. When did you get the book?—About the 12th of May.

1978. How did you manage before that?—I had a book of my own.

1979. Did you select the men for the work?—I did.

1980. How did you select them?—They were there on the work before me.

1981. And did you turn away any whom you considered were not destitute?—Yes.

1982. Did you give the names of those in receipt of relief?—Yes, I sometimes put men on myself.

1983. After the first week you attended the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

1984. Did you give the names of those you gave relief to?—Yes.

1985. Mr. Robinson.—Who was the principal contractor?—Mr. Carey.

1986. He is not a guardian?—No.

1987. Who was the next?—Mrs. O'Boyle.

1988. Is she related to any guardian?—Her son is a guardian, I think.

1989. You did not put in the name of the contractor the first week?—No.

1990. Did you ever hear that persons got articles other than those mentioned in the tickets?—No, except there may have been ransoms.

1991. Before you got the books did you bring any case before the Board?—Yes.

1992. And got the sanction of the Board?—Yes.

1993. Mr. Louder.—I find on page one there is no date, but I find that all the others are dated and they were signed by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. P. J. Kelly; I presume the omission was an oversight?—Yes, I suppose so.

1994. But I presume the book was ruled the one day?—Yes.

1995. Evidently therefore there was an oversight in the case of the first four?—Yes.

Mr. Robinson.—I don't think they were all ruled the same day.

1996a. Mr. Louder.—Did you attend here from day to day?—Yes.

1996. Have you been in this room from morning until eleven at night?—Yes.

1997. And have you known the Board to adjourn from Thursday to Saturday, or even Friday?—Yes.

1998. Have you seen guardians who had come ten or twelve miles sitting here and discharging the business?—Yes.

1999. And all actuated by a desire to relieve the poor?—Yes.

2000. And any time you brought up your book and it was not signed, I presume it was simply because there was not time?—Yes.

2001. During the whole time of your administration of this Act, have you known of any person obtaining relief except a person who was considered to be destitute?—No.

2002. Have you known of any person put on by a guardian, and who was not destitute?—No; they were all destitute.

2003. I think you said that the contractors were named by the guardians?—Yes.

2004. By a Committee?—Yes; in Newport.

2005. Were the majority of persons put on by your suggestion, knowing their condition?—Yes.

George Adlamson, Relieving Officer, sworn.

2006. Mr. Redington.—For what division are you Relieving Officer?—Lewisham.

2007. Were there any Assistant Relieving Officers in your division during the administration of the Relief Act?—Yes.

2008. What were their names?—Othoburn, McCreilly and Joyce.

2009. Did they get separate districts?—Yes.

2010. What did you reserve to yourself?—Lewisham.

2011. You are not responsible for the other districts?—No.

2012. What was your mode of procedure when an application was made to you for relief?—I issued tickets, and brought my book every week before the board of guardians, and then the tickets were issued.

2013. During the first week had you any authority from the board of guardians to put any person on the relief works?—No. At no time except to work on my own responsibility.

2014. You relieved them, I presume, provisionally?—Yes; where they needed it.

2015. What day did the relief work begin?—The week ending the first of May I think.

2016. Did you bring the books with which you dealt that week, before the Board of Guardians?—Yes, I always did so weekly.

2017. I presume you had your book?—Yes. I have been thirty years at the work, and know the dates.

2018. Had you a sufficient number of books?—Yes; at all times.

2019. Have you your books with you now?—Yes.

2020. Can you tell me the exact date that the works began?—I believe it was the week ending the first of May.

2021. When did you first bring your books before the board of guardians?—On the Thursday following the day when the works commenced.

2022. Were the books entered in the "Application and Report Book"?—Yes.

2023. And did you get the authorization of the guardians for the relief you administered?—Yes.

2024. Did the chairman sign your book?—Yes.

2025. Do you mean the book for the week ending the first of May?—Yes.

2026. Let me see that book.—(Book produced by witness.)

2027. This must be the second book. It certainly is not the book for the week ending the first of May. Well, I must have made a mistake.

2028. Mr. Robinson.—Can you show, in any book, where relief was signed for on the first of May?—No, if that is not it.

2029. Mr. Redington.—Is the signature, at the commencement of this book you have handed in, the first signature you have got to the relief, under the Poor Relief Act?—To the best of my belief, it is, but I have another book here. [Another book handed in.]

2030. And did the guardians here put on anyone of their own accord?—No; not without consulting me.

2031. Mr. Robinson asked you was Mrs. O'Boyle related to a guardian?—Yes.

2032. She is in business in Newport?—Yes.

2033. A long time?—Yes; a very long time.

2034. What was her husband's name?—Thomas O'Boyle.

2035. Since his death she carries on the business?—Yes.

2036. What is the age of her son, the guardian?—About twenty-seven or twenty-eight.

2037. I believe he is not provided for with a shop or a wife?—No; he is not married.

2038. And I may say that his mother's business is not his?—No; it is not.

2039. And he has not been a contractor?—No; not to my knowledge.

Witness
Mr. William
Giles.

2040. Mr. Redington.—This book commences with the 29th April?—Well, I may have gone away about that.

2041. Are these people, mentioned at the beginning of this book, people who received relief under the Poor Relief Act?—The greater part of them were.

2042. That is all you had that week?—Yes.

2043. Are you sure?—Well, the pressure was not very hard at that time.

2044. Can you tell me on what date you got the Chairman's approval to the first relief administered by you under the Poor Relief Act?—I am really not quite sure, more than this, that you have the books before you, and I may have gone away in dates.

2045. Where is the book, with the signature for the 8th in it?—I think that is it before you.

2046. No, this is the 31st, and you would scarcely write the 27th instead of the 8th?—No, not if I know it.

2047. Then I may take it that you have no book with the Chairman's signature, dated the 8th May?—No.

2048. Well, try the 15th May or thereabouts. You do not appear to have the signature for that date?—I suppose not, if it is not there.

2049. The first date I have is the 27th May, and, therefore, I take it that you did not get the Chairman's authorization until the 27th May?—Well, between, we did not get the Chairman to sign, because of the pressure, and then we went away.

2050. Would that occur for so long as a month?—Sometimes it would be for about a fortnight.

2051. Well, according to this book, you gave relief for about a month without authorization?—Well, except the Chairman used to be here, and the books before him, and he was able to sign them on that day, we would have to wait a bit, and we often waited here until the clouds of the night came on.

2052. You do not always bring your books here?—Always.

2053. It would appear, however, that you went on for four weeks without authorization?—Sometimes I did, and sometimes I did not.

2054. Look at the case of Pat Guylford. Did you give him relief?—Yes.

2055. There is no sign opposite that name, and are you sure you gave him relief?—Well, I see it here without a signature.

2056. Did you give him relief?—I certainly did.

2057. Why did you give him relief, when you had not the authorization of the Chairman?—The Chairman may have made that mistake himself.

2058. But where there is no authorization, there ought to be no relief?—I never gave a pound without authority.

2059. Did you select the people to be employed at the works?—No, I did not, at any time.

2060. Who did?—They were sent there by the Board of Guardians. They went of their own accord.

Mr. George
Adlamson.

Witness
Mr George
Atkinson.

and made a wholesale job of it. That was at first; in fact the second week the whole country was full of it.

2058. Were you on the works the first day?—No.
2059. Where were you?—Well, I was not in every part of the district.

2060. I did not ask you that. Can you tell me what your practice was when you went on the works?—I saw those who were on it.

2061. Did you turn away any of those whom you saw on it, as being cases who were unfit subjects for relief?—Yes. In every case where they were not fit, we turned them away.

2062. Did that happen often?—No; there were very few such cases.

2063. Were all who got relief destitute?—Well, the first week I cannot say for that, because they flocked in, but the next week it was not so bad, and any who worked, that should not have been off.

2064. What sort of works were they?—Repairing of roads.

2065. Did you get a list of those who were on the works?—I knew each case.

2066. Who determined the work?—The Chairman.

2067. Then every work was authorised by the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

2068. Before it was begun?—Yes.

2069. The particular work was selected by the Board of Guardians?—Understandly.

2070. As to the order you gave. Did you give an open order, or did you give the name of the contractor?—The first week we named the contractor, but after that we left it open to all the contractors.

2071. Did you get any meal to distribute yourself?—Yes.

2072. How much?—Three tons.

2073. Did you get it yourself?—No. I gave an order to the contractors to give it.

2074. Do I understand you to say, you got three tons yourself?—I got a cheque for that amount of meal.

2075. And what did you do then?—I gave an order to the contractors and paid them, and there is a sum of £4 12s. 6d., remaining in my hands still. I offered it to the board.

2076. Mr. Redington (to Mr. Ryan).—Is that included in the expenditure?—Mr. Ryan.—No. It is balance in hand.

Examination resumed.

2077. Mr. Redington.—Did you know why you got these three tons of meal?—Witness.—Well, it was supposed that these parties were very distressed at the time, and the chairman directed me to get a cheque from the clerk at the union for the three tons, and they asked for the meal immediately afterwards.

2078. Mr. Louden.—You are the permanent relieving officer for that district?—Yes.

2079. Do you hold any other appointment?—Yes.

2080. From whom?—The Marquis of Sligo.

2081. Are you one of his lieutenants?—Yes.

2082. How long have you been relieving officer?—Thirty years.

2083. Now, the chairman had some difficulty in ascertaining the date from you, as to when you first made up your "Application and Report Book." Indeed you seemed to have rather a confused notion about the whole business. Now, as a matter of fact, did you lose your "Application and Report Book"?—That was another book.

2084. Can you answer the question. Did you lose your "Application and Report Book"?—I did.

2085. How many did you lose?—One.

2086. Which "Application and Report Book" was it?—It was my second one.

2086a. Will you take your oath of that?—Yes.

2087. What date did that book have?—I can refer you to the copy of it which I have here.

2088. I do not want you to refer to the copy of it,

I want you to tell the date of the book you lost?—I will tell you if you allow me to look at the copy which is here.

Mr. Louden.—I object to your looking at the "copy" as you call it.

Mr. Robinson.—After all what is the objection to his answering the question, and refreshing his memory by looking at that book?

Mr. Louden.—Very well, if it will refresh his memory let him do so.

Witness.—The first date is the 11th of May.

2089. Mr. Louden.—In that first date initialed by the chairman?—Yes.

2090. Therefore he was not a month without having the book initialed?

2091. Mr. Redington.—It is this book which contained the names of people receiving relief under the Poor Relief Act?—Yes.

2092. There is on one page, as I understand, the whole number of persons receiving relief for the week ending the 11th of May, or thereabouts?—Yes, to the best of my belief.

2093. Do you mean to say that this is the whole number of people you were giving employment to at that time?—Yes. At that time.

2094. Now, what is the date of the next page that is signed?—The week ending the 18th of May.

2095. Now, how many were in receipt of relief during that week?—I think there were twenty-eight.

2096. Will you swear that there were only 28 in receipt of out-door relief during that week?—Yes. To the best of my belief that book is correct.

2097. Is that the only answer you can give?—That is a copy of the book I lost.

2098. A copy of the book that you lost?—Yes.

2099. And you say there were only 28 persons in receipt of poor law relief in your division in the week ending that date in May?—To the best of my belief that is a fact, and afterwards the number became much greater.

2100. When was that book signed by the chairman?—I suppose on the same day.

2102. What is the date of that signature?—The 18th May.

2103. Look back to the previous signature of the 11th May. Is that for relief during the week ending the 8th of May?—I cannot swear. I would be liable to make a mistake, but to the best of my belief it is all correct.

2104. What is the number of people receiving relief during the week ending the 11th May?—According to your book 18.

2105. Only 18? Do you swear that?—I believe so.

2106. To the best of your belief only 18 were in receipt of relief during that week?—Yes.

2107. Mr. Louden.—How many electoral divisions have you on a rate?—I had two at the commencement, Lerrinburg and Ennagh.

2108. But you are the permanent relieving officer, and how many divisions have you?—Oh, I have either five or six.

2109. Mr. Redington (to Mr. Ryan).—Can you state the actual number relieved in Lerrinburg for the week during which the witness states that only 18 were relieved?

Mr. Ryan.—There were 35 cases and 423 persons.
2110. Mr. Redington.—There is a great difference between 18 and 35?

2111. Mr. Robinson (to witness).—With reference to this book which you say is a copy of the one you lost, is putting down these cases, is it merely gone with you?—No, I filled them out from my books.

2112. Then you should have filled in 35, and you have only filled in 18?—Well, there may have been a mistake somewhere. I see there must have been.

2113. Mr. Louden.—It is quite clear that this book is made up in a most irregular manner. How did you lose your book?—I left it on the porter's desk, and

when I came on the following Thursday I could not get it.

2114. Will you remark that it was removed from the precincts of the workhouse?—I could not get it, and that is all I can say.

2115. Do you recollect the minute of the 4th May to the following effect:—"Relieving officers are ordered to send in a report in writing on Thursday next, setting forth the number of men employed in their district, and the amount of money expended up to date." Did you get a copy of that from the clerk?—I suppose I did. I am not sure.

2116. Did you get a list of roads?—Yes.

2117. Now, I believe, as a matter of fact, you did refuse to give relief to the people in the first instance. Did you not refuse to give relief to the starving poor in the first instance?—Never.

2118. Was there a charge made to the Local Government Board, that you had caused the death of a woman named McLaughlin?—Of course; but I got out of that honorably. I was brought up here about it.

2119. Who brought you up?—The Local Government Board. There was a report on the matter.

2120. Anyway the woman died?—Yes, but not of starvation.

2121. Now, in the case of Grayless, can you say who was the Chairman presiding?—I cannot say.

2122. It was P. J. Kelly, and I find the case is not done! and correctly so, for the case is asked refused,

and the following case is not initiated, it is refused?—Mr. Kelly acted very properly in the case of Michael Ryan, considering him not entitled to relief, and the next case he refused to initiate also.

2123. Mr. Redington.—In the case you have mentioned—Grayless—it is in evidence, I think, that he did get relief?

Witness.—Yes, and he was deserving of it.

Mr. Louden.—There is no mark to Grayless' name.

2124. Mr. Redington.—Did you give relief to Grayless?—Yes; I never took him off and that shows he must have been destitute.

2125. Mr. Louden.—Though after 25th May, the Chairman's signature was not there?—I thought he may have forgotten it.

2126. Mr. Redington.—Did you direct his attention to the omission on the next Board day?—No.

2127. Why—was it merely want of thought?—Yes.

2128. Did you at any time draw attention to the fact, that you were giving this relief without authority?—No, the man was as fit a subject as any in the country.

2129. Are you to be the absolute judge of that?—Partly.

2130. Acting just according to your own opinion?—Well, I know more about the country than most of the guardians.

Witness—
Mr. George Aikman.

The Rev. Patrick O'Connor, R.P., Achill, sworn.

2131. Mr. Redington.—We will be very glad to hear from you any evidence as to how the Act was administered in the Achill district?—We gave relief there for four months before the passing of this Bill, for the people there were in a terrible state; I was obliged then December to go to the Lord Lieutenant to tell him that the people would die in hundreds if they were not looked to. I knew the people well, and it was, indeed, coming to that, and I said to the Lord Lieutenant that "I will not have the responsibility left upon me." Lord Carnarvon listened to me very patiently and sent down an Inspector. We were obliged then to appeal for help and many kind friends came to our assistance. For some time the Government did nothing. I was every day of my life through the parish and saw the terrible necessities of the people. I succeeded in supporting them for three months or four months, and there were something like 600 people whom I kept alive during that time.

2132. Could you give us any idea of how much you spent each week?—At the beginning perhaps £50, I was reducing that amount week after week until it amounted to about £20 every week; that was up to the beginning of May, and it went on to the latter end of April. After that the Guardians came to our assistance and I must say that they came splendidly to our aid. The next thing that happened was that the Government passed the Act which is known as the "Relief of Distress Act." From that time the subscriptions from private sources, and from the charitable public generally fell down to almost nothing; indeed, I may mention that I had letters from America and from people in other places, and from people that I knew, the effect of which was—?—you are evidently now not in distress as the Government has taken action to relieve your necessities. They have passed a measure for you, and, therefore, we need not concern ourselves further about you. There was some reason for such an opinion, but after the passing of the Act we were left entirely to ourselves until the Poor Law Guardians of Westport took the matter up. Their efforts to save the poor starving people of Achill were simply stupendous—something beyond anything that I can describe. Indeed I never can forget their exertions in this way. They kept hundreds and hundreds of

people alive, more I might almost say than were saved during the period of 1848, and the result was that we were able to tide over the time of the utmost difficulty; of course, 1848-49 were worse in some respects, but that should not lessen our expressions of gratitude to the Guardians of the Westport Union for the manner in which they came to our assistance and saved the people, who, otherwise, would have been left not only in danger of starvation, but would have actually died of absolute want. Of course, I do not know how the rest of the union was placed, but I can honestly say that there is no place in the country you'd have suffered so much want and so much misery were it not for the help they gave us. The help they gave us was continued for some time, but notwithstanding that the people were very poor—the contractors were able to give them very little. Tickets, no doubt, were issued to be given to the people, but those tickets, owing to something to which I need not refer, were dishonoured. I must acknowledge the contractors did what they could, but in a great part of the division of Lower Achill they were not able to do very much, and although they were working under the Guardians they were unable to give any relief, so great was the pressure upon them. As an example of the position of the people I may mention that many of the poor people were willing to give their tickets for one-half the value. As a matter of fact people were willing to give a ticket value for 5s. 6d. for 3s. To my own knowledge many persons walked twenty miles looking for some contractor who would give even something for the tickets.

2133. How long did this last?—Oh said on. The Guardians could scarcely be held responsible for that. Of course the poor people were not left altogether hopeless or helpless, for both myself and those who were charitably inclined to aid us, did their very best for them. I myself was obliged to appeal to Mr. Davitt, and I do not think I could mention his name without saying that he did for us anything and everything that a man could do, and although I say that I do not wish for a moment to lessen the credit due to the Guardians who came forward and helped us as much as they possibly could under the provisions of the "Relief Act." However, I applied to Mr. Davitt, and through his assistance I

Rev. Patrick O'Connor, R.P.

Witness.
Mr. Patrick
O'Connor, &c.

was enabled to support a large number of people, who would otherwise, without any doubt, have been left without any resources whatever. For some time the tickets issued—and this was owing to a large measure to what I may call a panic—became almost useless.

2133a. Were those tickets paid ultimately?—Yes; thanks to Mr. Martin Carey. Thanks a thousand times to him, they were. I have no fault whatever to find with the contractors, because those who failed, under the circumstances were not able to do this, but Mr. Carey came well to the front, and we have to thank him very much. People walked twenty and twenty-five miles to get meal to be used on their tickets, indeed, I may go further and say, that I have known of cases in which they walked sometimes fifty miles for two stone of Indian meal, of course it is very hard to realise such a state of affairs, but the mention of these facts will, no doubt, be sufficient to indicate the condition of the poor people with whom I was associated.

2134. I understand from what you have stated, that the tickets were not honoured?—Quite so.

2135. That is, those who presented them could get nothing for them?—Yes; but that was owing to a rumour, and I believe, a widespread rumour, which was circulated, I think, from the town of Westport.

2136. About what time was it that the tickets were refused payment? At what time were they first dishonoured?—Well, I am not exactly certain, but I fancy about June or July.

2137. Do I understand you to say, that the tickets would not be honoured during that time?—Yes.

2138. And, therefore, you had to endeavour to supplement the guardians' relief?—Yes, and we were able to do that through the private charity of kind persons, and I may mention that we constructed, through what we received, nearly one hundred miles of road, upon which eighty or one hundred people were given employment. I, myself, saw the people who were working upon that road, and I must say, that out of the numbers who were engaged at that work,

I could scarcely say I saw one who was not a fit subject for relief.

2139. Are you satisfied, so far as the distribution of relief under the Relief Act is concerned, that relief was given to the destitute?—Yes.

2140. And that no one got relief who was not entitled to it by reason of destitution?—Quite so; they had nothing whatever to depend upon at the time except what they got in the way of charity, and I regard the relief in the shape of meal, which they then got, as having been instrumental to a very large extent in saving their lives during that time of dreadful destitution. This observation applies as much to those who got relief and who had in their possession what some people have called "stock," I mean who had a cow, a horse, or something of that sort.

2141. But though they had cattle, you think they were as badly off as those who had none?—Yes, indeed I do. They were just as badly off who had such a thing as a four footed animal in their possession.

2142. You have no point of objection to urge to the way in which relief was administered during that time?—No, but I may be allowed again to say that I can never forget the goodness of the guardians and their splendid efforts to get the people relief, and who by their exertions saved hundreds of people who would otherwise have died in the mudpits and ditches as they did in 1848. Similar scenes to those would have occurred but for the action of the Guardians. I hope that there will not be a mistake as to what the contractors did. Those contractors were people who were very poorly off, and they were very easily influenced by any little rumour that spread, and I would not bear too hardly upon them, but no difficulty arose from any hesitation to give relief at any one particular time.

2143. You never heard of any poor person being refused relief who deserved it?—No, the relief officers were very reliable, I must say. And we assisted each other. I gave them what help I could, and they gave me what help they could.

Rev. Patrick Greenly, F.R., &c., Newport, was sworn.

Rev. Patrick
Greenly, F.R.,
&c.

2144. Mr. Leodes.—There was considerable distress in your district?—Yes, there was.

2145. The distress in your district was second only to what existed in Achill?—Yes.

2146. Taking everything into consideration I would ask you this—had you reason to be satisfied or dissatisfied with the manner in which the guardians of the Westport union administered relief in your parish under the "Relief of Distress Act"?—I was perfectly satisfied with the way in which the relief was administered; and I should also add that all the officials under the Westport guardians did their very utmost to save the people, and, when I say that, I mean they did their best to save the lives of the people.

2147. Are you not aware that there was a decided and a widespread conspiracy set on foot throughout the entire of this district to discredit the guardians of the Westport union for the way in which they administered relief during the administration of that Act?—Yes.

2148. Is it not a fact that false and malicious reports were circulated from month to month by persons who were opposed to the Westport Board of Guardians, the tendency of which report was to incite an idea that there was no inclination in this part to give relief to persons who were not entitled to it, and to refuse relief to those who were entitled to it, and, also, that the guardians would never pay the contractors who undertook the giving of the relief?—Yes, I heard that frequently.

2149. And as a result that a large number of the contractors refused to give meal?—Yes.

2150. Are you aware that I, myself, took every means to counteract the effect of that report, and that, in the result, it was clearly shown that no such feeling

prevailed amongst the Westport Board of Guardians and that the object of the thing was simply to discredit this Board and to circulate a notion that we were incapable of properly administering the affairs of the union?—I am aware of that, and, also I am aware of this, that the Board of Guardians of the Westport Union, during the time of the administration of the Relief Act, acted most wisely and well. And I might further say that, so far as my people are concerned, they feel deeply grateful both to this Board and to Mr. Tate.

2151. I believe that the first official notification of the condition of affairs here was owing to a letter from a public official—in fact, from a letter written by Mr. Robinson as to the condition of affairs in the district?—I don't know that.

2152. In any case, Father Joyce, Father O'Connor, and yourself succeeded in starving off the miseries of distress in the district over which you have control?—Yes, as far back as October, 1845, we called attention by resolution and otherwise to the condition of the people of the district. We drew attention to the failure of the crops and the consequent destitution.

2153. Did the distress afterwards prove as acute as you anticipated?—Yes, always; and in some instances, indeed, far worse. I might say that, in some instances, the people in the parish of Newport took and sold the little fowl they had in order to get a small quantity of meal. I know people in Newport who took their clothes and, with the old things they had in their houses, pawned them. I know people who had little mountain farms, as they are called, some people who had twelve or fourteen head of cattle even, and sold them, who were as badly off and had as little means to

Witness
Rev. Patrick
Grady, &c.
&c.

support them, and had to put up with as little as could be done for the people who had nothing whatever to depend upon. These people were as much subjects for relief as the worst cases that came under the provisions of the Act.

2154. Did such persons get relief from the guardians?—Yes, but as I said before, Mr. Tolson and some others had done a great deal to relieve them. In my opinion the distress at that time was so great, and the necessity for intervention on behalf of the people as strongly emphasised as it ever was since 1847-48.

2155. Would you then say the distress was as it was in 1847-48?—I would say so, but it was not quite so general.

2156. Mr. Robinson.—Are you aware that at one time an order was issued by the Guardians that the relief was to be reduced one-half—that the relief administered was to be curtailed by 50 per cent.?—I know that is a fact, but the relieving officer very properly would not take upon himself to carry that out fully.—Indeed, I may say I prevented him. In giving his evidence he said that he thought he had reduced it by one-third. I told him that if he took off one-half the result would have been that he would have innumerable complaints against him before a week; and he very wisely exercised his discretion, because he only took off such persons as were altogether not so badly off as the others.

2157. How much do you think you were able to reduce the relief during that time?—I could not say.

2158. Do you think that any risk was incurred by reducing the list?—Yes, I know that in some instances there was very considerable risk. In such cases I relieved the persons who suffered from it myself.

2159. Do you think that the course taken by the Guardians in this matter, and the reduction of the relief adopted temporarily, was altogether judicious?—Well, yes; under the circumstances perhaps it was. The pressure put upon the Guardians at the time was very considerable by the Local Government Board, and I would say they were coerced to do it. As you remember, the resolution of the Board was to the effect that the relieving officers were to strike off 50

per cent.; but still there was a qualification with reference to that same 50 per cent., because they were told not to allow any person to starve, and, assuming that provision to be carried out, there was, after all, no absolute risk. There were some persons taken off relief in Newport parish, and I believe that only I came to their aid they would have suffered most abominably, and if I were not able to relieve them, I just distress, and if I were not able to relieve them, I believe there would have been great risk resulting from the suspension of the relief by the Guardians.

2160. But there was not a fatal result, as it happened or turned out?—No. All the relief works were stopped in the union except in Achill, and there they were continued in consequence of the fact that the people were so obviously in need of support: that was during the fortnight.

2161. During that fortnight, what relief was given by the Guardians?—The relieving officers gave relief, and I gave relief from private sources.

2162. Were 50 per cent. of the people relieved during that fortnight?—I could not say.

2163. Were there any works going on at that time?—I think not.

2164. They were relieved without any Labour test?—Yes, except in one portion of the parish of Newport, and portion that goes into the electoral division of Currawa, but not in any other part of it.

2165. While the works were stopped, was outdoor relief given?—Yes, by the relieving officers in several instances I understand outdoor relief was given.

2166. So that, in point of fact, relief works continued, but not in the shape of works on the roads?—Yes.

2167. Mr. Louder.—In the resolution which was passed in reference to the taking off of 50 per cent. of those who were receiving outdoor relief, were you not acquainted with the fact that it was also ordered that, "In the meantime the Relieving Officers are instructed to give provisional relief in cases of urgent necessity"?—Yes; and in that district it was found that the condition of the people was such as to place them out of the ordinary category of persons receiving the ordinary outdoor relief.

Relieving Officer Green recalled.

2168. Mr. Bellington.—Were the relief works stopped in Newport for a certain time during the administration of the Relief Act?—Yes, by the guardians.

2169. For how long was it?—About a fortnight.

2170. Mr. Louder.—During that time were any works carried on in your division?—I think not; but I gave provisional relief during that time.

2171. To what extent?—Very slightly; the clergy ordered me to give more than I did.

2172. Could you give in a return of the amount of relief you gave at that time?—Yes, I could prepare it, and give it in afterwards.

2173. During the time the works were stopped at Newport East and Glenhest, were not the works carried on in Newport West?—They might have been. It was my assistants who were there.

Mr. Green.

Martin Carey sworn.

2174. Mr. Robinson.—You were the contractor for the Board?—Yes.

2175. What was the full amount that was supplied by you under the Relief Act?—For Newport, £345, and at Achill, £358 13s. 6d. The whole thing amounted to £703 13s. 6d.

2176. How much of it has been paid?—I got a cheque on the 18th of June for £104 11s., on August 24th, £40 17s. 6d.; for Slieveanna, £60 7s. 6d.; Achill, £50 13s.; Dooega, £18 17s. 6d.; being a total of £213 5s. 6d., leaving a balance due of £489 8s.

2177. Have any tickets been presented to you since you first presented your account?—I do not recollect if there were. I did not expect them.

2178. Up to what date did you expect them?—The dues are on the bills.

2179. When do you expect to receive the payment of the balance due to you?—As soon as it is possible.

2180. Are you anxious to get it?—Well, I am very

fond of money, and I would like to get it as soon as possible.

2181. What is the nature of the supply in every case?—Meal, very generally, is first altogether; but there were other little things, such as groceries and flour, and these were sometimes given to sick persons. Sometimes persons came from Achill who were not able to carry the meal, and I paid for carrying it.

2182. How did you secure payment of that?—I deducted it from the supply.

2183. How did the people come to you?—They came on foot.

2184. Did they ever come to you and ask for two weeks' supply at one time?—Yes, often and often they were refused. Sometimes I did not know what exactly to do with the tickets. Of course I knew it was safe money in the end, because the tickets were issued by responsible officers; but I did not like the idea of going forth that I was monopolising the business.

Mr. Martin
Carey.

Witness.
Mr. Martin
Garry.

of the contractors, and as all failed in Achill, I took it up, and some of the people who came to me had two or three tickets in arrears, and I did my best to help those who were anxious to relieve the distress that prevailed.

2185. Did you give up the possession of the tickets you had?—No, I have them all.

2186. Mr. Louden.—How many miles did those

people travel who came to you for meal?—Between forty and fifty Irish miles sometimes.

2187. And in many cases, I assume, they had no means of bringing back the meal to Achill?—No, they had to carry the stuff on their backs, and it was a most distressing thing to find them placed in such a position.

Patrick Sweeney sworn.

Mr. Patrick
Sweeney.

2188. Mr. Robinson.—You were a contractor?—Yes.

2189. What is the amount of money represented by the relief tickets given to you by the guardians?—I cannot say; it was my son who used to supply the relief.

2190. Do you not know the state of your accounts?—There is about fifty or sixty pounds still due. I asked my son, and I think he said about that amount.

2191. Was your son the contractor or were you?—It was my son who tendered in my name, and he does business for me.

2192. Then you absolutely know nothing about it?—Very little.

2193. Are you quite sure there is money due to you?—My son told me there was.

Bartley Gallagher, sworn.

Mr. Bartley
Gallagher.

2194. Mr. Robinson.—I believe you complain that you have not been paid your balance in full as a contractor?—That is a fact.

2195. Has any account been paid in full?—Yes.

2196. What is the name of the contractor?—Anthony Molloy.

2197. Is it a matter of great inconvenience to you not to be paid?—Yes, I have calls from Dublin, and in fact I expect to be served with writs from Dublin.

Mr. Molloy.—There is £22 10s. 8d. due to you.

2198. Mr. Robinson.—How much did you supply altogether?—I suppose—I think about 245.

2199. In what district did you supply the meal?—In Donegal.

2200. Did the people ever ask you for anything else besides meal?—No, I don't know. In some cases if there was a doctor's certificate for tea and sugar were given, and there is the sum of £7 odd due to me further on.

2201. Were two weeks tickets ever presented to you at the same time?—Well, sometimes the relieving officers had not a ticket to send to me, and in that case they would send me a list, and afterwards people would come with two tickets.

2202. When did you send him back the list?—Immediately, when he served me with the tickets.

2203. Were the tickets given to you by the relieving officer or by the people?—By the people, but the list came from him.

2204. Mr. Robinson.—You kept the list in lieu of the tickets? What I mean is you supplied upon the

list and waited for the tickets as an authorisation for it?—Yes.

2205. Did you complain that you were not paid in full?—Yes, to the best of my knowledge, I had written here to the Clerk about ten times on the matter.

2206. Did you ever come before the Board and demand payment?—Yes, my son did.

2207. Did you come yourself?—No, not yet.

2208. In the letter which has come to us you state that you have been in the Boardroom several times?—Well, my son has.

2209. Mr. Louden.—It is very hard to get at the truth of this matter—may I ask you who wrote that letter?—I do not know who the man was.

2210. Upon your oath who wrote the letter in which you demand payment?—I do not know who he was.

2211. On your solemn oath do you mean to say that this letter was written by some person whom you do not know?—I do not know his name. I met him on the bridge and he wrote the letter for me, I do not know what his name is.

2212. You will be paid whatever is due to you, but do you mean to say that you do not actually know the man who wrote the letter you sent to the Commissioners, and in which you demand the payment?—I do not know who he was.

2213. Did you ever write a letter to me?—I did not.

Mr. Louden.—Well I won't ask you any more questions after that.

John Morris, Westport, sworn.

Mr. John
Morris.

2214. Mr. Robinson.—What was the amount of meal supplied by you?—It amounted to £445 18s. 6d.

2215. How much were you paid?—About £143, and the balance due is £302 18s. 6d.

2216. Is it any inconvenience to you to wait until the rates are struck for the payment of your account?—Yes, it would be a great thing for me to be paid as soon as possible.

2217. Are you the contractor for the union under ordinary circumstances?—Yes, for about sixteen or seventeen years. There are large sums due to me, there are some thousands due to me by small farmers

in the district who are unable to pay, and it would be a great thing for me to get paid as soon as possible. It is all due in the Westport Electoral Division.

2218. What was the nature of the supply?—Meal.

2219. Did the tickets specify what you were to supply?—Yes, in every case meal, except in some cases provisions were mentioned. There were very few cases. I may mention that a great many of these tickets were refused in Westport by the contractor who, I suppose, was unable to supply them, and I thought I would be paid before this time. I complained before the Board about it.

2324. Did a person ever present a ticket to you for more than one week?—In some cases persons did present tickets for two weeks supply.

2325. Who was it gave you the list?—Mr. Moran the relieving officer, he supplied me with the list, and got back the tickets.

2326. When did you get back the tickets?—The next day.

2327. Was the electoral division of the persons receiving the tickets worked on it?—I think not, simply the name of the relieving officer and the amount.

2328. You could not say from the tickets the electoral division?—No.

2329. Mr. Louden.—You have become the contractor for the workhouse for the current year?—Yes.

2330. Owing to the large amount due to you under the Relief Act—and unless we paid you to the day—would you be able to supply the staff to us—in fact,

would it not be a great inconvenience to your trade to be obliged to wait?—Yes, there is about two thousand pounds due to me by the country all round.

2331. Do you remember when the guardians were refused a supply of meal for the purpose of relief?—Yes by Messrs Livingston.

2332. They are meal merchants?—Yes.

2333. And you took up the tickets refused by the shopkeepers at Westport, and continued to supply food for the people?—Yes.

2334. Taking upon yourself the risk of that proceeding?—Yes.

2335. Now are you in a position to wait until this money is raised from the rates?—Well, it would certainly be very hard to do so, for I need scarcely say that the money would be of very great advantage, and I surely will be able to wait.

2336. Mr. Robinson.—I need scarcely ask you are you a guardian—of course you could not be?—No, I am not.

Witness.
Mr. John
Reilly.

Thomas Reilly, sworn.

2337. Mr. Robinson.—How much did you supply under the Relief Act?—I don't exactly know.

2338. Do you know what is due to you?—£31 10s. I think.

2339. Did you supply for any district except Westport?—No.

2340. Did you hear tickets from all the relieving officers of the Westport Electoral Division?—Yes.

2341. What was the nature of the supply?—Indian meal.

2342. Did you ever give tickets for two weeks supply at the same time?—I could not exactly say.

2343. I suppose the sum due to you is so small that it is not much inconvenience for you to wait?—Well, I cannot say that; as a matter of fact I want it.

2344. You are not a guardian?—No.

2345. Are you any relation to a guardian?—My brother-in-law is a guardian.

2346. Mr. Louden.—Are you a large exporter of sheep to Liverpool?—Yes.

2347. Is it not an inconvenience to your trade to wait until this is settled by the rates?—Yes, there is no doubt about that.

Mr. Thomas
Reilly.

John Fitzpatrick Relieving Officer sworn. (Witness hands in his book).

2348. Mr. Robinson.—You have a large district?—I have.

2349. What electoral division were you relieved of when the Relief of Distress Act came into operation?—I was left in charge of the Westport division all through.

2349a. You have nothing but that under you?—No, at least, not for some time.

2349b. What was the average number daily in receipt of relief from Westport Electoral Division?—Sometimes it used to reach about one hundred.

2350. What class of persons were they—were they town labourers?—Nearly all, with certain exceptions, and they were the poorer class of tenant farmers through the different districts, and the intermediate room-keepers got very little during the whole time.

2351. Tell me what line of procedure you adopted in putting them on the works?—I had permission at the commencement from the chairman to put people on the works who were destitute. I myself drove through the electoral division and wherever I saw any person on the works whom I considered not a fit subject for relief I put them away. On one occasion I found two persons belonging to the same family working, and I put one of them away. In fact I made as much discrimination as I possibly could. In fact I allowed no person to remain on the relief works except those whom I believed to be in want of food. There were some cases in which the guardians put persons on the works before those works were actually arranged, and in all those cases I endeavoured to make as much inquiry as I could myself, but in no cases were paupers put on or persons appointed to the works that I did not consider myself to be destitute cases, and in which I did not get the word of the guardians for it.

2352. How did you fill up the the application and report book?—I filled up the books of the tickets I was issuing first. It took a great deal of time at

first. In fact it would take me from early in the morning until whatever time I could work, and without leaving the house.

2353. Then you filled in the names of those persons on the books?—Yes.

2354. How often did you fill in the application and report book?—I made up the books, but they might be in arrears occasionally, but generally they were made up within three or four days of the time I issued the relief.

2355. Is your relief book written up?—Yes, with the exception of some places where there were two weeks ordered.

2356. Did you give much relief to persons who did no work?—Well, yes, when there were some persons who were helpless and could not work. There were some families who were destitute and where there were no persons who could work and save them, help in the way of relief was given.

2357. Did you hear the evidence given by the ordinary relieving officers as regards their duties?—Yes.

2358. Was the course pursued by you the same as in their case?—I cannot say that I followed their course, although I have no fault to find with what they said, you know "doctors differ," and I simply did the best according to my knowledge.

2359. How do you mean to say you differed?—I do not say we exactly differed.

2360. Did you ever put a person on the works without a ticket?—No, I do not believe that in any cases I have charge of, that anybody got on the works except those absolutely destitute.

2361. I suppose your work was pretty heavy during the time that the Relief Act was in operation?—Yes, we would be on it all day, and sometimes the Anglin bell would ring when we would be in the middle of it, and all day long and all the evening, especially at first, the hurry was so great that it was almost impossible to meet all the cases.

Mr. John
Fitzpatrick.

Witness.
Mr. John
Fitzpatrick.

2272. Did all the contractors furnish their bills up to date?—I know some were so pressing that they could not allow a thing to be over for my time.

2273. When the Guardians were ruling the books did they sanction the relief that had passed as give direction as to the works to follow?—In no case did the Guardians object to any books, as in every case the persons were destitute, I put them on the book and the Guardians sanctioned it.

2274. Did the "black" specify the amount of meal to be given?—Yes, I have my black here.

2275. Mr. Rodington.—I see your relief list of the 6th of May, is only signed on the 24th—why did you not bring it before the guardians?—I did so, and the truth is that the chairman and gentlemen of this Board had such a tremendous lot of work to do, that they looked through the books, generally speaking, and saw the applications; but they were often busy from the morning until ten or twelve o'clock at night, and had sometimes to get out through a side door, so as not to face the people, and in that way the books were not ruled until the great battle was over.

2276. But in any of your books were any ruled up to the 24th?—They were finally approved of, so far as the guardians were concerned, though, perhaps, the books were not signed.

2277. Did you bring the book up every week?—Yes.

2278. But they were not signed until the 24th?—No, not until that date.

2279. Mr. Robinson.—What was the nature of the work?—It was repairing roads.

2270. Where?—One was from Castlebar road to Ballinrobe road. It was quite impossible for carts. It wanted dressing.

2271. Mr. Louden.—What was the first day you presented your application book for signature, to be initiated. You stated, I think, that the book was not initiated because of the pressure?—I think so.

2272. And that there was great haste at first. What I wish to ask you is, when was the first time you presented your book?—As well as my memory serves me, we brought our books weekly to the Board.

2274. Do you swear that?—Yes.

2275. Therefore it was not your fault that the books were not initiated?—No, and I would respectfully say the fault was not yours.

2276. Do you remember a resolution of May the 18th, which was as follows—"Relieving Officer Fitzpatrick having been moved by the chairman to resign"—it was moved by Mr. B. Powell, J.R., and agreed to, that Mr. Fitzpatrick receive an extension of time to fill up his report and application book up to and ending Monday next.

2277. Do you remember being called on to resign?—Well, I have been so often called on to resign, I do not remember that particular occasion.

Mr. Louden.—I must take the opportunity to say that the motion with reference to Mr. Fitzpatrick was made for the purpose of sparing him on that anything. He was literally besieged.

The inquiry was adjourned until next meeting.

Nov 27, 1886

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1886.

WESTPORT UNION.

The Commissioners resumed the Inquiry at 11 o'clock.

Mr. John Egan, Clerk of the Union, recalled.

Mr. John
Egan.

2278. Mr. Rodington.—Is this a correct return which you have handed in?—Yes, it is a return of outdoor relief from the week ending 3rd April to the week ending 7th of August, 1886.

2279. Arranged in accordance with electoral divisions?—Yes.

2280. Have you made out an abstract of the outdoor relief administered?—Yes. Of out-door relief from the commencement of the half-year which terminated on the 25th March down to the 24th of April. There is a stoppage in consequence of the books not being made up to the 27th of July, and from that to December I have it fully made out.

2281. Why could you not have it made out for the intervening weeks?—Because the relieving officers had not their books ready.

2282. Have they completed them since?—No.

2283. Have any of them?—One of them has.

2284. What is his name?—Carrigan, of Ballycroy. Some of the temporary relieving officers have completed their books, but the permanent officers have not. Thus in Fitzpatrick's district the assistants have completed their books, but until I get Fitzpatrick's book in connection with them you will see it is impossible to have made up an abstract of the outdoor relief. That is one case out of many, but in Ballycroy there are two men, and they have only one contractor to deal with, and they made up their books at once.

2285. Are those relieving officers making up their books now?—Yes, and they have been urged by the Guardians under threat of dismissal to do so, and they will have them within two weeks time.

2286. Was they urged some time ago?—Yes; during the relief and during the cessation of it.

2287. Were any observations made about their not doing it?—Yes, by the chairman and gentlemen.

2288. Mr. Louden.—The resolution on the books calls on one to resign, and there is a notice of motion to discontinue him if he did not make up all the cases?

Witness.—I think there were sixteen temporary Relieving Officers, and their districts being portions of the districts of the principals, it would be impossible for the principals to do all the work—but now that it is in hands I believe it will be all finished in a fortnight.

2289. Were these resolutions of the Board of Guardians calling on them to make up their books passed in April, June, July, August, September, and October?—Yes.

2290. After these relief works were over had not these relieving officers lots of time to make up their books?—Yes, and in addition their duties were becoming light; but they stated that they had difficulties in dealing with the contractors' bills and in tracing the divisions. The number of the application was not quoted, the township was not given, and in the majority of cases not even the electoral division was given; and four or five Relieving officers would be joined in one contractor's account, and there was undoubtedly some trouble and difficulty in ascertaining the true amount chargeable to each electoral division.

2291. Did you point out that they could make up that return from the books of relief tickets?—No; I did not say that because I do not see how they could.

2292. Why not?—Well, they might have done it in some cases perhaps.

2293. Mr. Robinson.—According to the evidence the books stated the amount of meal and the residence!—Certainly not in every case.

2294. Mr. Robinson.—Does the contractor's bill give the residence of the person who got the meal?—No.

2295. Is it not therefore impossible in some cases to ascertain what electoral division the meal is to be charged to?—I would not say exactly impossible—but certainly very difficult.

2296. There must be some cases, I assume from what you say, where it is impossible to get the information?—Well, I would not say that. By pains and a little time it will be all elucidated, a week or ten days I believe will do it.

2297. Mr. Robinson.—Have the tools been paid for?—Nearly all.

2298. Do you know the exact amount due to the contractors?—Yes, I have it here. I have every contractor's account showing the instalments and the balance down to December.

2299. Give the total due to contractors now?—£4,461 12s 5d.

2300. When, under ordinary circumstances, will you be able to pay these sums?—The Guardians have made provision for it. I have made provision to have the matter in hand and ready next Thursday, the 2nd of December.

2301. But you have not written up the rate books?—Yes, but have not put in the rates.

2302. It could not be signed by next Thursday—have you the approval of the Local Government Board?—No.

2303. So that if they were to approve by next Thursday, you would have the books ready for signatures next Thursday?—Yes. It takes three weeks to publish the books, and on the 30th of December the books could be signed.

2304. And within a month would you get in enough to pay the contractors?—Well, they would go among the good marks first, and they are supposed to have one-third of the rates within a month, and in about two months at most there would be enough.

2305. Do you think the contractors could wait till then?—Well, they are certainly very pressing.

2306. Mr. London.—When do you consider that the accounts of this union will be made up, including the accounts of the relieving officers?—If the accounts of the relieving officers are made up.

2307. Don't give an "if"?—Well, within a fortnight from this date I would have the abstract in the hands of the auditor. If you look at the accounts you will see that they are written up to date.

2308. Have you inspected the work of the relieving officers?—Yes.

2309. When will the relief list and expenditure be made up?—Within a week, or they will be very culpable, for the guardians have given every assistance in the way of clerkship to do it.

2310. The Relieving Officers during the administration of the relief had to fill up tickets, to do a great deal of work, and with the guardians their duties were very heavy?—Yes, the work was certainly very heavy.

2311. Would it have been physically possible for them to have made up their lists and expenditure books during that time?—In some cases I would say yes; and in others, no.

2312. Did the guardians use every means in their power to have all the accounts of the relieving officers properly kept?—Yes; they did.

2313. Did the guardians at any time exercise their authority to prevent shenan on the part of any particular relieving officers?—They did.

2314. Whenever an abuse appeared did the guardians use their influence to prevent it?—They did.

2315. Since the operation of the Act ceased did the guardians exercise their authority to have the accounts made up?—Yes; they pressed the relieving

officers as much as could be, and gave them every assistance.

2316. Did they even go so far as to threaten dismissal?—Yes, and there is one dismissed pending now.

2317. Mr. Robinson.—Have the guardians not made an order calling upon the relieving officers to provide a return of each individual case?—Yes, and two-thirds of the work has already been done.

2318. Mr. London.—Have you a knowledge of the work they have done?—Yes.

2319. And from your knowledge of the matter, and having inspected the books, can you say whether any gross deficiencies, discrepancy, or irregularity, appears to have taken place?—I think that considering the enormous amount of relief afforded there were exceptionally few faults to be found.

2320. Have cases been discovered, and if so how many, in which the particulars did not appear in the application and report book?—Well, no doubt, a good many cases did occur, but they are very few indeed.

2321. Do they come to two percent. of the whole?—No.

2322. Have you met six cases?—Yes, and twenty-six.

2323. Out of how many thousand?—Out of about 18,000 cases.

2324. And you say there are about twenty or twenty-six mistakes?—So far as I have seen, but I have not gone through all.

2325. And you cannot say, as a matter of fact, if these twenty-six are absolutely inaccurate?—Well, they are still undetected.

2326. Is it possible, having regard to the course that has been pursued by the guardians and by you, that any fraud or dishonesty can have been committed, and remained undetected?—No.

2327. Now, you have to keep an out-door relief register?—Yes.

2328. That was an enormous job, I believe?—It was so. It is supposed by law that there is only one out-door relief register, but I had got two running conjointly, Newport and Weymouth, and had to keep two men on it. These are 18,000 registered already. Indeed I had to get a third register.

2329. Is that finished?—As far as the work has gone and agreed by the chairman of the Board up to the time the names are registered. It was signed up to the 11th of November.

2330. Your evidence now reduces itself to this, that there is really no possibility of fraud—no possibility of the relieving officers having committed fraud without detection?—Quite so, so far as relief administered by the board of guardians is concerned, but as to anything else is concerned I don't know.

2331. What is your general opinion as to the work done by the relieving officers?—They were very zealous men, and they worked very hard.

2332. Mr. Robinson.—If all the names are in the application and report book, why is there any difficulty about making the out-door relief book?—There is none in such cases.

2333. Mr. Robinson.—How can you make out the out-door relief list accurately from the application and report book, in the case where it is represented in one book that there were only eighteen cases, and in the actual original return it would appear that there were eighty-five?—In that case the man lost his book, which had been ruled by the board of guardians, and that was not discovered until he made up his relief list. The guardians accepted the copy as genuine.

2334. Mr. Robinson.—Was there a minute made accepting the copy?—Yes. I may say that I cannot transfer the contents of the out-door relief books into the abstract until the subsidiary officers do their share of the work.

Witness.
Mr. John
Riggs

John Moran, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Witness.
Mr John Moran.

2337. Mr. Robinson.—When did you begin the works on Clare Island?—The 1st of May.

2338. How did you select the persons to be employed?—According to their districts.

2339. When did you first bring your book before the guardians?—On the 24th of May, I think.

2340. You did not bring any case before the guardians before that?—No, none of these new cases.

2341. Then for three weeks you had men employed without the sanction of the Board?—From the 1st to the 24th passed before I came before the Board.

2342. What works did you employ them on?—On the roads—repairing roads.

2343. Who selected the roads?—Father Quinn, and the guardians sanctioned them.

2344. How did you pay these people?—I paid portion of them in kind, which I got from the guardians. I got nine tons from the guardians, and brought it to the Island and weighed it out.

2345. Were there contractors on the Island?—No. The remainder were supplied by Londuburg contractors.

2346. Did you issue tickets on one particular contractor?—I did not put any certain contractor's

name on the tickets. I think there were two or three contractors at Londuburg.

2347. Mr. Robinson.—But none on the Island?—No.

2348. Mr. Robinson.—Did you keep books, with the names and residences of the people?—Yes, every single case.

2349. Have you made up your out-door relief list?—Yes, except that some of the bills from the contractors are not in; that delays me.

2350. How would that delay you?—I would like to see the bills.

2351. Have you not the names of all who got relief?—Yes, every one.

2352. Why are you waiting to see these bills?—I thought it better to see the bills, to compare them with the Application and Report Book.

2353. Do you think some people got relief who did not get a ticket from you?—No.

Mr. London.—As a matter of fact, is it not because it is much easier to make them up from the bills that you are waiting?—Yes, I certainly would like to see them.

2354. Mr. Robinson.—How long have you been a relieving officer?—Twenty-two or twenty-three years.

John Cooney sworn.

Mr John Cooney.

2355. Mr. Robinson.—You were one of the contractors at Achill?—Yes.

2356. How much is due to you?—£34 odd.

2357. And I understand you have a difficulty in getting credit to that amount?—Yes.

2358. Have you a large shop?—Well, a pretty fair trade, if I be able to carry on as I was.

2359. Won't the bank give you credit?—I believe not. I did not ask. I believe they would charge me interest on it.

2360. How long is it owing to you?—Well, I believe it was some time about August—in or about that time. My creditors want the balances due to them, and I can't get anything unless I pay my way.

2361. Mr. London.—Where does your wholesale merchant live?—In different places, they are.

2362. You gave relief extensively to the poor of Achill?—Yes.

2363. You remember the time when the report was

circulated by the enemies of the guardians—by those at least in opposition to the Board of Guardians—a report which destroyed their credit, because it said that the contractors would not be paid?—Yes, I think I do.

2364. You remember the time when the Achill contractors could get no more work to supply the people?—Perfectly.

2365. And since then has not your credit been materially damaged?—Yes.

2366. And, as a matter of fact, you require ready money?—Yes. Unless I get money I must become a bankrupt, or close up.

2367. Have you been harassed by creditors?—Yes, and have been harassed.

2368. Are you afraid of being made a bankrupt?—Yes, I have been harassed by Dublin merchants.

(John Moran hands in Relief List completed to date).

Mr. John London, D.L. (Chairman of the Board of Guardians) sworn.

Mr John London, D.L.

2370. Mr. Robinson.—Could you not get your bank to pay this money?—There would be a difficulty in it, as there is no law whereby a board of guardians can pay interest to a bank, and I consider it a great hardship to a bank to be lending money to a subordinate department of the State for nothing.

2371. You have been a guardian for a good number of years?—Yes.

2372. And you are very well acquainted with the circumstances of the people?—Yes.

2373. Do you think there has been any abuse by the Relieving Officer so far as you know?—Well, abuse is rather a strong word—if you mean culpable abuse.

2374. I do not mean that. Do you think that many people get relief who were not entitled to it, or that money did not get relief who were entitled?—I do not know a case of a person receiving relief and not entitled to it, who was not immediately struck out.

2375. Is it a fact, that so far as Achill Island was concerned the passage of the Relief (Ireland) Act caused its charitable subscriptions to drop off?—Yes, that is a fact. Now for instance Mr. Michael Davitt

had a large sum of money, and he was anxious to ascertain whether a sum of money could not be got to erect fisheries, and useful works of that kind, but the conclusion he came to was that the passing of the Act caused the stoppage of the charitable supply.

2376. And that effect, I presume, applied to other districts as well?—Yes.

2377. To the Westport Union?—Yes. There was scarcely any charitable fund at the disposal of Westport for the relief of the people except the seed—I do not know of any charitable fund except Davitt's.

2378. With regard to the rule of the guardians, that any tickets should be honoured by any contractor, what were the grounds of that rule?—Convenience solely. In the first place when we advertised for contractors a very large number tendered. They tendered in a common form, and at a common price, 46 the ton, and we found the price was low, and we discussed the question of the advisability of having so many contractors. Some guardians were in favour of having a few. Others were of opinion that there should be many. The majority were inclined to have the large number, and for two reasons: first, they were opposed to monopoly in trade; and secondly, they considered

that the larger the number of contractors the greater would be the convenience to the poor. Now as to having a ticket—sort of "bill on sight" not addressed to any one contractor in particular—there was a suspicion amongst the guardians—in fact it was openly stated—that the relieving officers were favouring some particular contractors, and that by having the tickets addressed to individual contractors an opportunity of thus favouring certain persons was afforded to the relieving officers, and further, that it tended consequently to take away from the poor the great advantage of being able to go to the contractor nearest to them. That being so they came to the conclusion to allow the poor to commit their own convenience, and we found that to work admirably. There no one contractor nor group of contractors of Westport, Lonsburg, Achill, and Newport, or elsewhere could supply the enormous quantity of staff we required. The large men did not offer themselves as contractors, for instance Mr. Livingstone, and the North City Milling Co. did not tender. They it appears do a large trade with millstones, and do not wish to interfere with them. We therefore were isolated from dealing with them. However, when we tried to get a large quantity of meal for Achill we addressed ourselves to Mr. Livingstone, and he point blank refused to give it, and after evasions proved that we were right in having that large number of contractors, for if we were at the mercy of one or two there would have been a stoppage of supplies and a failure of the intentions of the Act of Parliament.

2380. Would there have been any objection to have confined the tickets to particular districts?—Well, you have had it in evidence that the Achill men were not in a position to supply all the staff. They were dependent on persons in Westport. If the persons in Westport stopped the supplies, these men could not give food to the people. The result would be—as it was unquestionably for a time—that the poor of Achill, having worked, would have got tickets from the relieving officers for which they could get nothing. These people had to come forty-five miles to Newport to get something for their tickets, and if we made a rule confining the tickets to particular districts, Mr. Ousey could have given them nothing, and the result would have been very lamentable. We took these matters into consideration, and after events proved that we were right in the action we pursued.

2381. With regard to the signing of the books, did you, in the majority of cases, sign for relief already given?—No, I think not. I think the relieving officers, in giving their evidence, did not quite clearly understand the questions put to them. The Application and Report Books were presented to us with certain names inserted. We perused the relief given provisionally, in the first instance, and before we had an opportunity of going into the cases. In far away districts, like Achill, we gave relief for two weeks, and the signing of the books was far in advance. At first the relief was provisional, then the books were brought up weekly, and the relief given, or to be given, sanctioned by the Board. The word "off" written opposite a case, means that the relief was to be discontinued.

2382a. Mr. Robinson.—What is the meaning of the 1s. 6d. marked here?—That was the relief that was given, and that it was to be continued. The absence of the word "off" was an authority to go on.

Mr. Robinson.—I fear the auditor would have no right to sanction it as it appears in this book.

Mr. Lonsdale.—I am bound to say that there was, perhaps, never a book made up absolutely correctly by the relieving officers. You could not get them out of the old groove. In Lonsdale's case the relief was provisional. There is just one matter that I would like to point out, as to the instructions to the relieving officers by the guardians. On the 4th of May the guardians found that the relieving officer had a large number of persons employed, and no account

sent in; and on that day you will see by the Minute Book that it was ordered—

"That Relieving Officer Atkinson is ordered to send in a report, in writing, on Thursday, setting forth the number of men employed in his district, and the amount of money expended therein, up to date."

The same order applied to Relieving Officers O'Higgins and Joyce. The following order was made—

"That the relieving officers strike off from their lists, all persons who are not in distress, and that they present this, in writing, to the Board on next Thursday, setting forth the number of persons so struck off. That not more than one person shall be employed from each family."

Now, I may mention that when we received the telegram from the Local Government, authorising us to anticipate the Act, we were not exactly sure as to what form the Act would bear, or in what form the relief would be given.

2382. Mr. Robinson.—What was the date of the telegram?—The 23rd of April. Mr. Morley made a statement in the House that the administration of the Act, so far as £30,000 was concerned, would be given to the Board of Guardians, and he stated that if a Board of Guardians refused to carry out the Act, the Board so refusing would be dissolved. He said that in the House. We did not know what form the Act would take, and I may mention that in commencing to give relief here, we procured a copy of the Bill, thinking that the Bill would be some guide for us, but owing to certain action on the part of the Irish members, the Act came out in a different form from what the Bill was when drafted. I was one of the committee administering the relief in 1840 under the Act, the administration of which was in the hands of the President Sessions, and I considered in this case that the proper thing to do would be to appoint a Committee of Guardians, and have each person put on the works who were considered to be destitute, by the relieving officers or by the guardians of the particular electoral divisions. But immediately the Act came out I found that the relief was to be given as out-door relief, and I at once caused orders to be issued, which orders appear on the face of this book, and I made every effort to have the Act at once administered as ordinary out-door relief, and that the rules be carried out as effective as possible. On the 4th of May the order was made that

"All destitute persons shall have their names entered in the Application and Report Book by the relieving officers, and that the relieving officers issue tickets for meal to those persons who are destitute. This order to take effect from Saturday, 4th of May."

In consequence of being the action of the Board into line with the new condition of affairs. However, I may say it was almost impossible to get the old relieving officers to change their habits. They were in the habit of giving provisional relief.

2383. Mr. Robinson.—Can you say why the books were not ruled until the 24th of May?—Some were ruled on the 11th.

2384. But a great many were not ruled until the 24th?—They had not got the books.

2385a. But the guardians might have asked to have the cases submitted on paper for their consideration?—I can only point to the order made by the book directing the relieving officer Atkinson to send in his report in writing on Thursday.

2386. Why could not the guardians have directed the relieving officers to submit to them in a list the names of the persons they proposed to put on, with the nature of the cases?—That was done immediately after this order.

2387. But in a great many cases the books were not ruled until the 24th of May, and though you may not have had the books, you could have got the names of the persons?—I think that was done. I know that from the very commencement we got the relieving officers to have the cases made out, and to strike off all who were not destitute.

Witness.

Mr. John Lonsdale, &c.

Witness.
—
Mr. John
London, &c.

2386. The relieving officers submitted the names of those proposed to be put on 1.—Yes.

2387. Can you show an order of that kind?—(Mr. Ryan, the Clerk, produces Relief Minute Book.)

Witness.—On the 10th of May, 1836, it was ordered, "That all relief works be suspended till Friday, in order that the relieving officers may have all cases at persons receiving relief entered in the Application and Report Books, when the guardians will consider each case on its merits, and pass or reject same."

2388. Was that carried out?—Yes, in some instances; in some cases it was not. In some instances we had to pass resolutions calling on the relieving officer to resign. You had that in evidence yesterday. On the 10th of May the "Relieving officers are ordered to issue no tickets for meal for work done during the present week until each case shall be considered and ruled by the Board on Thursday. Copies of above to be given and read to each relieving officer." A copy was given to each relieving officer by the Clerk, furthermore, I myself got all the relieving officers before the Board, and read this order for them. In fact, I read all the orders to them. The next minute was as follows:—

"The Clerk of the Union is ordered to carry out his instructions, to initial all tickets and blocks before giving the Order Books to the several relieving officers, and the guardians will republish all responsibility for, and will refuse to accept legal liability for any tickets issued contrary to this order. The Clerk is further ordered to initial all blocks and tickets now in the hands of the relieving officer. No contractor is to accept from this date any ticket or order for meal without such initials. A copy of above to be given to each contractor."

You will perceive that we safeguarded ourselves as much as we possibly could—first, as to the relieving officers, and secondly, as to the contractors—in order that there would be no shams.

2389. You were aware that the proper thing to do was to put the persons on the works?—Yes, the order gave it. Every order, I should mention, was put into writing from the beginning. I did everything in my power to get the relieving officers to do their duty properly. I found it was very easy to get the new hands to do this, but very difficult to get the old ones. The younger men did exceedingly well—and always remembering that the primary object was relieving the poor, and the prevention of starvation, they did very good service indeed, though they had sometimes, I admit, to subordinate religion to that.

2390. You think it acted on the whole properly?—I will say they acted splendidly, especially considering how much they were bound down by red tape. I think I read already the resolution calling on Fitzpatrick to resign, and the amendment by Mr. Powell giving him an extension.

2391. Mr. Redington—I think you mentioned a telegram from the Local Government Board, would you kindly read it?—It is as follows:—

"The Local Government Board authorizes the guardians to give out-door relief on the conditions stated in their order of the 30th instant, in anticipation of the passing of the Poor Relief Bill, and their attention is directed to the last two paragraphs in the printed letter sent to you at the same time."

2392. What is the date of that?—32nd April.

2393. That was in reply to a telegram from the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

2394. You had before you the letter of the 30th of April referred to in that telegram?—Yes.

2395. What, then, was the necessity for looking at the draft of the Bill when you had the instructions of the Board?—I thought it essentially necessary. I always found in administering the Poor Law that it was of the utmost importance to read the Act of Parliament.

2396. But this was only the draft of the Bill, which was afterwards altered?—Quite so, it was to have a rough idea of what to do.

2397. You had before you the letter of the 32nd April. Did you think it gave you sufficient instructions to carry out the Act?—Yes, and those orders which we passed are all in line with the clauses and instructions.

2398. Was there a meeting that called?—(Mr. Ryan, Clerk).—Yes. It was ordered—"On receipt of the foregoing telegram it was resolved that an adjourned meeting of the Board be held on Saturday, the 31st, to take into consideration the administration under the Relief of Distress Act now being passed."

Mr. London.—On the 22nd of April this order was made—"That the relieving officers make an inspection of their respective districts, and report to the Guardians by this day week on all cases of distress which may come within their notice."

2399. Mr. Redington.—Did they do that?—I am not quite certain, but the order was made on that day, and I think they did.

2400. Were the works started before they reported?—The order was made on the 22nd.

2401. And when did the works commence?—On the 23rd.

2402. Did they report in the meantime?—I think they did.

2403. Did they report on all cases of distress which may have come within their notice? Is there on the 29th any report from the relieving officer?—I have no recollection of it.

Mr. Ryan.—There is an entry on that day—"The clerk reported that he had furnished a full copy of the rules and regulations made by the Guardians." And again—"The relieving officers attended with reports as to the state of their districts."

Mr. London.—The business was commenced on the 23rd, and then order or resolution was passed—"In order to take into consideration the administration of relief under the Relief of Distress Act, this meeting of the Board is adjourned to Saturday the 24th at twelve o'clock." That is signed, and then commences the ordinary business. The works commenced on the 23rd.

2404. Mr. Redington.—Is there an order that the relieving officers strike off from the list all persons who were not in distress?—Yes. There was a rush to the works when the orders were first made, and a great many men worked whose names never appeared on the application book, and who got no payment in meal or otherwise for work. A good many men even worked as gangers, and started gangs of their own, that never were acknowledged and were never paid.

2405. Had the relief lists—the lists that were to be reduced—had they been considered by the Board of Guardians?—I assume they must have been.

2406. What were those relief lists—were they lists in the possession of the relieving officers?—They were lists of persons employed by the relieving officers.

2407. Before the 4th of May?—Yes.

2408. And was each one considered before the 4th of May?—Yes, for a great many were struck off. I could mention the names of a great many that were struck off.

2409. Were all the lists of the relieving officers considered before the 4th of May?—I won't say all, and I won't say they were not.

2410. What is your recollection?—Well, my recollection on that point is hazy. In fact, the reason I do not remember these things, although I have a very good memory, is that I committed these things to writing, and when I do that I do not remember the details quite so well. On the 22nd the Board adjourned to the 24th. Then the work commenced, and I committed everything to writing.

2411. Were the lists of the people on the works brought before the guardians in any shape?—Yes.

2412. And considered?—Yes.

2413. Was each one considered on its merits?—Well, I will not say that.

2414. But the majority of cases?—Well, yes; I believe the majority of cases were considered.

2415. Why were the relieving officers directed to strike off names—why was it not done by the Board of Guardians—why did they delegate it to the relieving officers?—Well, the resolution speaks for itself. It was considered necessary to ensure that only those who were destitute should be on the Application and Report Books, and that by striking off 50 per cent we would get the relieving officers—force them I may say, to do their duty in writing up their books—otherwise, owing to the very large number of men insisting on getting relief by forcing themselves on the works, it would have been impossible to go into the cases, and that was why we ordered the striking off of 50 per cent, so that the more destitute would be kept on.

2416. That is not exactly what I asked—my question was directed to find out why it was that when you were considering the majority of the cases on these lists, you could not have struck off the cases of those persons whom you did not consider fit recipients of relief—without deposing it to the relieving officer?—At the time there was very great pressure, so much so, that we had to sit from eleven o'clock to twelve at night, which made it impossible to scrutinise each case and we were obliged to do the thing to a certain extent, in a somewhat rough and ready way. Our primary object was to prevent death from starvation. We were as a matter of fact charged with the death of a woman, and we received a letter threatening us that if anyone died we would be held morally and legally responsible—and we had to subordinate red tape to the main point of relieving the people—then it was physically impossible for us to go into each case at once, but we went into them as soon as it was physically possible.

2417. What was your reason for deputing these very important duties to the relieving officers, was it merely want of time?—Naturally we had to throw the cases on them, and the relief had to assume the form of provisional relief.

2418. But that would only apply, I suppose, to the first week, what about the succeeding week?—As quickly as could be, we did everything to scrutinise the cases and if in the second week the books were not fully filled (and it may be that several of them, indeed most of them, were so filled) we did for the best—we went even so far as to threaten dismissal, and in point of fact, in the second week we did dismiss a relieving officer.

2419. I think, on the 10th of May you made an order about the suspension of the works?—I may mention that at this time we still found it impossible to get the relieving officers to put down in the Application and Report Books the complete list of names of such persons as were employed. They complained indeed, that it was physically impossible for them to do so. Of course, that did not apply to them all, but the general complaint was that the circumstances being so exceptional they were not able to do the work. On the 10th of May then an order was made "That it is hereby ordered that the relief works be suspended until Friday next, in order that the relieving officers may have all the cases of persons receiving relief entered in the Application and Report Books, when the guardians will consider each case on its merits and pass or reject the same."

2420. I thought you said that in the second week most of the cases were investigated by the guardians?—What I mean to convey is that compatible with the exigencies of the time the guardians did their very best and they had the gaugers' lists before them.

2421. As regards the majority of people employed on the 10th of May, the guardians had approved of them cases on these lists brought before them?—I will not commit myself to that exactly. The guardians had to call on the relieving officers to give a reason for not sending in satisfactory returns to enable us to say if all the persons were properly employed or not. This I may say, that there were very few of those

employed who were not destitute, or at least proper subjects for relief.

2422. But the point is, how many of these cases you had considered before the 10th of May—had you considered one half of them?—On the 10th of May, I should say we had considered nearly all on the relief list, and that we were of opinion that most of them were absolutely destitute, but at the same time we considered that some of them were not entirely destitute, and I remember distinctly having asked one of the Local Government Inspectors whether he would consider a person with a few unmarketable cattle destitute. At that time cattle were quite unmarketable. It was Spring time and they were not in condition and there was no demand, and you heard a clergyman stating that he knew of a man who offered a cow for a bag of meal. I remember asking the question and the Inspector said a man might be destitute and have unmarketable cattle. Indeed it is obvious that that might be so.

2423. That is not quite my point—"when the guardians will consider each case and pass or reject same"—are the words of the resolution. If you had considered a large number of the cases, what was the use of considering them again?—The lists which we considered were not regular, and it was in order to have the cases put in regular form.

2424. Did you not think it hard on the poor to suspend the works merely to give the relieving officers an opportunity of doing this?—Well, no; it was done in such a way that the poor could not possibly suffer. There was really no suspension of the relief as a matter of fact. We were not employing the people weekly. We gave employment for some days in the week, enabling them in that way to utilise some days in putting down their crops. We put them on the works for three days in the week.

2425. But this particular week, beginning on Monday the 10th, you were resolved to suspend the works until Friday next, that is five days?—Well, the order was on Monday, they would be working on Monday, and therefore they would be out only three days, and practically they had not a day taken from them.

2426. How is that?—Well, the days which had hitherto been Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, were changed to this extent that they worked on Monday, Friday, and Saturday.

2427. So that as a matter of fact there was as much work given during that week as during any other?—Yes, that is my belief.

2428. Then there was no positive "suspension" of the works, and the phrase used in the resolution is not quite correct?—No, not literally correct.

2429. Then on the 13th of May you had another meeting, when the relief was reduced 50 per cent?—Yes; the resolution was as follows:—

"The guardians have used all the means in their power to check abuses, but they have great difficulty in getting the relieving officers, being, as these officers state, and which the guardians believe, to pressure upon them, to carry out their orders to fill up in detail the application and report book. From the receipt of the letter of the Local Government Board of 20th ult., the guardians have held two meetings weekly, and have sat upon such occasions for over six hours. To reduce the expenditure, the guardians have reduced the labour days to half time—three days in the week. To further reduce the expenditure, the guardians now making the following order:—The relieving officers are directed to write off from the number of persons now receiving relief for labour given, 50 in every 100, taking care that the poorest and most destitute shall be retained. The Board is making such reduction in the number of persons receiving relief, but themselves are constrained to do so on financial grounds only; they are aware that the persons so struck off are in the deepest poverty, and will be unconsciously distressed and starving before the crops grow. As these cases reach the starvation stage they will be returned to the relief works. In the meantime the relieving officers are instructed to give relief in cases of urgent necessity, but not to admit any further cases on the relief works until further orders."

Witness.
Mr. John
Lewin, &c.

Witness.
Mr. John
Lewin, &c.

2430. The relief was then reduced, I presume?—
Yes.

2431. Were you not afraid that when the relief was stopped, the people would starve, or suffer severe want?—No. There was in that resolution, you will observe, an order to the relieving officers that the people should not starve; but that they should suffer want is undisputed, and that we could not help.

2432. The relieving officers prevented the occurrence of any case of starvation?—Certainly. The Act was a complete success in so far as the object—its main object was secured—that no person died of starvation.

2433. Even during the time that the works were stopped?—Quite so; at any time.

2434. The instructions were carried out by the relieving officers?—Yes, the instructions we gave them. Then on the 18th, this appears on the minutes—"The chairman having proposed that Relieving Officer Fitzpatrick be called upon to resign, it was proposed by Mr. Robert Powell 'that Relieving Officer Fitzpatrick receive an extension of time to fill up his report and application book, up to and ending Monday, the 23rd inst.'"

2435. Can you give me the grounds upon which the guardians struck off 50 per cent. from the relief list?—Well, as it has been proved, the maximum cut off, I believe, was only about one-third.

2436. According to the return of the clerk, the reduction in the number receiving relief was 14,539 on the 29th of May, and on the 5th of June 7,882?—I do not know exactly about that.

2437. According to this return there were a good many reductions that require some explanation. In Aughasower North, there is a decrease from 605 to 64, for instance. Now, did you make any inquiry into these, to see if there were not some really destitute ones struck off?—What return is that?

2438. The return of the clerk's?—Well, I cannot speak of this as a matter of certainty. As a matter of fact Mr. Egan, received information from the relieving officers in such a way that the returns were really not correct.

2439. Mr. Robinson.—But these returns are taken from the application and report books?—Then I assume they must be correct.

Mr. Egan.—The returns are from the application and report books, and are correct.

2440. Mr. Redington.—In one case I saw a reduction of from 605 to 64 and it certainly calls for some explanation?—Well, that goes back to the question I submitted to the Local Government Board in the spring time, whether men with unsaleable cattle were destitute. Men who had unsaleable cattle and were in a state of destitution in April and the beginning of May would at that time be out of the range of destitution. On the 22nd of May the Newport fair did bring something to the people who were previously destitute. Then again in May the fish came in, and a good many people along the coast do a small retail trade in fish.

2441. Is Aughasower on the coast?—No. The people there have sheep and cattle. The sheep for the most part are breeding sheep, and for some period the ewes are unsaleable. They have cattle of a very poor description. We discussed the question whether people with sheep and cattle could get relief at all, but as the cattle were unsaleable and as they could get no credit, we believed they were as much destitute as any one else. As a matter of fact they had no food, and could get no food, and that was the test of destitution.

2442. But there was a change?—Yes. I may mention on this point that I remember asking a man, "Have you not got two cows?" and he said to me, "Yes, but they are starved as I am myself"—and indeed it was the truth.

2443. As I understand you—they became saleable about the end of May?—Yes. I am now referring almost entirely to the mountain districts. Along the coast fish came in in May, and along the coast the

people live by selling fish. Shell fish come in as an article of food, and fowl as well.

2444. What time do you refer to?—The time we commenced to reduce the relief. We took into consideration at that time the coming in of fish and the fowl, and the saleability of stock.

2445. How was it the numbers in Glace Island increased from the 29th of May to the 5th of June?—There was absolutely no market for anything on Glace Island.

2446. In spite of the increased take of fish?—No, they have no fish trade whatever in Glace Island.

2447. What do they live by?—The land—not by fishing.

2448. They had some stock?—The stock were not worth mentioning.

2449. But I thought they improved at that time?—On Glace Island the stock is not saleable until harvest time. You may not aside the Glace Island people as living under different circumstances and conditions from the people along the coast. We dealt with every division upon its merits. We applied no fixed rule, and it would have been very naive to have done so.

2450. In Glenside Electoral Division I find on the 22nd of May 770 persons in receipt of relief, and on the 29th of May I find there was only one person relieved: was there such a change in the condition of affairs as that would suggest?—I think that was the subject matter of a letter from Father Greely to the Local Government Board. The works were suddenly stopped by a guardian—who was baffled to the landlord—and it was done without consultation, without consulting the guardians. But the moment the guardians found out how things were they remedied it—and in point of fact, the guardians did their best under the circumstances.

2451. Next week I find there were only 507, so the wishes of the guardians must have been ignored?—No, I would not say that.

2452. The third week there were only 33; you see that was a great difference from 770?—I think that is an error. I would like to know the population of Glenside, Mr. Egan?

Mr. Egan.—1,087 is the population.

2453. Mr. Redington.—And there were 770 in receipt of relief on the 22nd of May, and one person in the following week; 765 persons I find were on the week before the 22nd?—I think there must be some error in that.

Mr. Robinson.—This is taken from the application and report books.

2454. Mr. Redington.—In Newport East I find there were 1,169 persons receiving relief for the week ending 22nd May, I presume these were examined by the guardians?—By the guardians of the district, certainly.

2455. Did the Board examine into the cases?—Well, reliance was placed on the judgment of the guardian of the district. What would I know, for instance, of Newport East, and in our opinion the proper men to examine into these cases are the Guardians who live amongst the people and have opportunities of knowing their condition.

2456. Who authorises the relief?—The Board as a whole is in some responsible.

2457. Well, I saw that within 1,169 persons were on the list, as I have mentioned, in the week ending 22nd of May, the week after there were only fourteen?—Take care that is not the time the works were suspended.

2458. Yes, but I want to know what became of the poor destitute 1,145, who got no relief that week. Was it not a great risk. Was it not a doubtful policy in the case of Newport East to reduce the list from 1,169 to fourteen?—In the result it would appear not.

2459. The week after that there were only fifty-five?—The date of the change was between the 22nd and 29th of May. Newport East is a mountainous district, and in the spring time most of these people were in a destitute condition; they have sheep and

outle, just like Aughavesey—between Newport and Glenfort. We thought we might stop the works there as cattle were becoming saleable. Sir George O'Donnell was buying largely, and wherever a beast was saleable he bought it. It was in that way the reduction was justified.

2460. In Newport West for the week ending 22nd of May there were 1,559 persons in receipt of relief, and for the week ending the 29th of May the number was 1,395, whilst for the week ending the 5th of June I find it is only 116. Now there again some explanation of the falling off would seem to be necessary?—Well, there again you have very much the same condition of affairs. We found from the fact that the people were becoming provided with better means of support by fishing and farming that we were in a position to reduce the numbers.

2461. What electoral division adjoins Newport West?—Curran.

2462. Well, there on the 29th of May the number was 1,016, on the 5th of June the same, on the 12th 1,021, and on the 19th 1,048. Now is it not curious that there is such a difference between the people of Curran and of Newport West as that would suggest?—At Curran they have not any shell-fish, and their circumstances at that season would adequately account for the difference. It is one of the worst passages on the west coast. Then, again, Newport West is not a congested district, whilst Curran is.

2463. Mr. Robinson.—Is not all Mullinbeg village and that district congested?—Not to the same extent as Curran, and the conditions are entirely different.

2464. Mr. Robinson.—Until the 29th of May, for the two weeks preceding there were several hundred more in receipt of relief in Newport West than in Curran. For the week ending 1st of May there were 847 receiving relief in Curran and in Newport West 1,005; on the 8th of May in Curran there were 933, and in Newport West 1,364; for the week ending 15th of May the respective numbers were 1,137 and 1,395, for the week ending 22nd of May 1,248 and 1,559, while for the week ending the 5th of June there were 1,016 receiving relief in Curran and only 116 in Newport West. Now surely there is a great difference there in that sudden drop in Newport West. Up to that point more people were receiving relief in Newport West than in Curran?—In the case of Newport West the relief diminished there because the fishing improved and cattle became saleable. Then as to Curran, that was a congested district, and the first reduction that took place there was owing to the fact that some thousands of persons were sent away from Achill (Curran). In one day some thousands went from Curran to Enghish.

2465. But the relief went on increasing in Curran, on the 22nd of May 1,014, 5th of June 1,016, 12th of June 1,021, 19th of June 1,048, and so on?—You had evidence already, I think, that the most acute distress existed in Achill Division, and if you ask me why relief was increased in Curran I would say simply because destitution was growing greater there.

2466. I am anxious rather to learn why it was struck off in Newport West?—A comparison between the two places can really not in fairness be made.

2467. You say that cattle became saleable in Newport West, when you struck people off?—Yes.

2468. Don't the people of Curran sell their cattle at the same place as the people of Newport West?—Yes, but the point is that they do not sell it till two months later. The land at Curran is not nearly as good, in fact it is the worst land in the world. It is worthless, and the cattle there, under no circumstances, become saleable until harvest.

2469. And in Newport West it becomes saleable earlier?—Yes, and I never bought a beast at Achill until August.

2470. Surely there is fishing at Curran down near the Sound?—No, I do not think so. There is no harbour. I may mention as showing that the condition of things there was different from the conditions here, that the Local Government Board, when we did close the relief for Achill sent a letter stating that if we applied for an extension for Achill we would get it.

2471. Now take the case of Killybegh, on the 29th of May the number receiving relief was 837, on the 5th of June 130, and on the 12th of June only 11. Now either the relief was given too liberally at first or too sparingly at the close?—Well, no, Killybegh was a very poor district. They have a mountain range too, and they had cattle, and sheep, but I may mention that we threw them over on the Glenties and Ferra O'Connell, who took up the very work we were doing.

2472. What work was that?—Blasting rocks, and making roads, and they did a great deal at Killybegh.

2473. What road was made?—From the harbour to the main road.

2474. Now about these books: there were complaints about the Relieving Officers not getting books in time; were they brought before the Board?—Yes.

2475. Did you make application for books?—Yes.

2476. I would like to know when the books came down, is there a minute about it?—I do not know but I should say so.

2477. Now on the 10th of May I find an order—"All relief works to be suspended until Friday in order that the Relieving Officers have all cases ruled and entered in the application and report books." Had you reason then to doubt that they had application and report books?—That order would rather go to show that they had them.

2478. But you heard them swear that they did not get them until the 28th?—Yes, that is so in many cases.

2479. In nearly all was it brought to the attention of the Board on the 28th of April, say, or the 4th of May, that they had not books?—Yes.

2480. Did you then apply for books?—Yes, at once; in fact the first thing I did was to instruct the Clerk on the subject. I told him he should get a second register. He told me that by law there should be only one register, but I told him that there might be two books.

2481. He said I think that 50 books came on the 29th April and were given to the Relieving Officers immediately. Have you any recollection of the distribution?—I was here when they were given out.

2482. You have no doubt about it?—No.

Mr. Egan recalled.

2483. Mr. Egan.—Thomas's account is here. They sent on the 29th April twenty, on the 7th of May two dozen, and so on to the 26th or rather the 27th, when the total number of 110 had been forwarded. They had written to us to say that their stock of books was exhausted.

2484. Mr. Robinson.—On the 29th of April had you any in stock?—Yes, there were twelve to work with and there were three I then received immediately after.

2485. On the 29th April you had twelve, and you

got twenty, when did you give them out?—I am sure Mr. Egan, they were here on the 30th and I gave them out on that day.

2486. So as far as you know there were thirty-two books distributed on only the 30th of April?—Yes.

2487. And two dozen came on the 7th of May?—Yes.

2488. What did you do with them?—Gave them out immediately, and then I got the remainder, making up 110. Thomas wrote to me saying "All our stock of books is exhausted, but the remainder will be sent in a few days."

Witness
Mr. John
London, &c.

Examination of Mr. London resumed.

Witness.
Mr. London.

2488a. Mr. Redington.—When the cases were considered by the board of guardians, were those cases read out and discussed and each decided on its merits?—Yes; that is to say, the chairman of the day consulted the guardians of the district, who knew about the applicant.

2489. This was done in public?—Yes, nothing took place in private. It was invariably before the Board.

2490. So that the guardians had all an opportunity of hearing everything that passed?—Yes.

2491. Mr. Robinson.—After the Application and Report Books came, did you continue to look at the gangers' lists?—Yes, for a while.

2492. At first you had no Application and Report Books?—No.

2493. And you used the gangers' lists?—Yes, and then when we got the Application and Report Books we relied on them.

2494. Did all the Relieving Officers submit their gangers' lists until they got the Application and Report Books?—Yes.

2495. Mr. Redington.—When was the distress at its highest?—It commenced in April and ended at the end of May.

2496. Speaking generally, you think the Act was administered economically?—Most decidedly. I think the intention of the Act was carried out; we may have kept need from persons to whom we would have been inclined to give it, but in no case was relief given to persons not entitled to it. Then I may say that any number of false reports were in circulation as to the action of the guardians, but since the amalgamation of the Westport with the Newport Union a strong prejudiced feeling existed with reference to this board of guardians. Rumours of every kind reached the Local Government Board, and charges were made against the Relieving Officers and the Board, all to the disparagement of the guardians, making it obvious that the object was to show, if possible, that the guardians were inefficient and incapable. But this Commission is here now, and I would like to bear some of these gentlemen who spread and encouraged these disparaging rumours, coming forward to sustain them if they can. One matter I wish, in conclusion, to mention is, that we had a long discussion with the Local Government Board, and I stated in a letter at the commencement of the administration of relief, that we, no doubt, acted against the law, and I received from the Local Government Board a letter saying that under no circumstances would the Local Government Board hold themselves responsible for any breach of the law committed by the Guardians of the Westport Union. That had reference entirely to the administration of relief before the passing of the Act (that is to say, whilst in anticipation of the Act) we, for example, gave relief to Mrs. McLaughlin, who died and we gave her that relief though her husband held a quarter of an acre of land, and thereby we technically broke the law, but the Act was made retrospective, and there was accordingly really no breach of the law.

2497. Did you not complain yourself that the relief was given in a very irregular manner?—Yes, at the time, and they were under a misapprehension as to what I meant. It was that according to the law as it then was, we could not give relief to persons with over a quarter of an acre of land, but the law was made retrospective and included relief given from the time of the receipt of the telegram of the Local Government Board to the passing of the measure.

2498. Was your complaint, that men not actually destitute were claiming to work and that the relieving officers were unwilling to refuse them relief?—No, we struck off all such cases of persons found to be not destitute.

2499. You admit, however, that illegal practices took place?—No, I do not wish to go quite so far. A great many persons worked who did not receive any payment, simply because they were not fit subjects, and a great many whose names were in the books were struck off and disallowed. I will take, for example, Ballycroy.

2500. Mr. Redington.—I refer to the first week?—Yes; in Ballycroy a large number of men were employed by Father Conway, and they were destitute, and I believe he acted according to his ideas of his duty as a parish priest. He believed it was his duty to save the people, and he employed them, and on his own credit he got food for the people, and he believed he would have got the price back from us when the Act passed. He was far away from us, and he saw his people on the brink of starvation and employed them. Well, morally that man was entitled to get back the money he spent on the food, but legally we cannot pay it, and I am of opinion that if it was possible to recompense him for what he has spent, he should be recompensed. There is not the slightest doubt that Father Conway acted as a priest should act, and saved his people, and I regret that we the law stands (the Board of Guardians is not able to pay him for the food he supplied).

2501. Were you not giving relief in that district yourself?—This was just at the commencement.

2502. Did not your works commence on the 22nd of April?—Yes, no doubt. But it is a very wide district.

2503. You do not complain of the large numbers who were put to work by Father Conway at Ballycroy?—No, for I think every man of destitution should be relieved.

2504. Did not Father Conway's work go on for some weeks?—For two weeks, I think. His district was in a sense a sort of terra incognita. He felt that these people were destitute, and he proceeded to relieve them.

2505. Did you not think that your relieving officers should put them on?—Later on they did so.

2506. Did you make any remark on the subject to the relieving officers?—Yes, and we called on him to do so.

2507. Now as to this first week, did you strike off any persons who were on that week?—Yes, an enormous number.

2508. Did you strike off persons who were not paid?—Yes, and from what I know of the accounts and the manner in which the shopkeepers' bills are tallying with the report and application books I believe nearly every person who received payment was passed by the Guardians on the report and application book, and I do not believe that ten persons will be found to have received payment who were not passed by the relieving officer.

2509. Did you not write to the Local Government Board asking an inspector to be sent down with a view to suspending the works?—Yes. There were men who came and even worked by force—who insisted on going on the work.

2510. And you struck off those when they were brought to your notice?—Yes.

2511. But the numbers would appear to have increased?—Well, these men that I refer to were not put on the gangers' lists, and not put on the application and report books. They never appeared in that way at all.

2512. Then there was no illegality?—No, no actual illegality, inasmuch as the relieving officers closed themselves and proved that many of these men came and worked on their own responsibility, and we had no more to say to them than we had with a chain gang in the West Indies. At first I thought there was illegality, but the relieving officers came and proved that it was not so.

2513. Then I may take it that there were a good many who were employed at those works, and who got no payment?—Yes, though it would not be correct to say they were "employed." I may mention that some sent deputations to us, and we said to them, "You are not fit subjects; go where you like."

2514. When did the distress in the country end?—About the end of May.

2515. What is the portion of the year when distress prevails most?—The spring time.

Patrick Malley, P.L.O., sworn.

2516. Mr. Robinson.—You wish to give some evidence as to the administration of the Relief Act?—Yes.

2517. Do you think there was abuse in the manner in which the Act was administered?—In the first week, when we got the assistant relieving officers appointed, there was something like a rush made on them, and on the 4th of May there was mention made of that fact. On the 7th I and Father Burke, &c., of Loughbeg, went on the works to see if there were any two out of the one house working, and wherever we found it so we put them off.

2518. Did you do this without reference to the Board of Guardians?—Yes. I was the guardian of the district, and wherever we found the Act being abused we stopped it and cut off those cases.

2519. Did you mention to the guardians that you had cut them off?—Yes, on the following Thursday.

2520. Did the guardians approve of your action?—Yes.

2521. You absolutely stopped men who were on the works?—Yes, and they were not paid.

2522. At what period of the year was the distress at its height?—The division of Aillmore in along the seashore and it is partly mountainous, and those who had cattle could get nothing for them.

2523. But when was the distress at its height?—I could not exactly say.

2524. When were the people able to sell their cattle?—Between the 30th of May and June—the end of June.

2525. Was there any great difference in their circumstances between the 30th of May and the 5th of June?—I believe that from the 1st of June some of the people along the seashore make a little hay, and that helped them just then.

2526. On the 30th of May, there were 438 persons in receipt of relief—were they destitute?—Yes.

2527. In the following week there were only 119 cases relieved. What happened in the interval to cause that decrease?—We considered that those who were cut off had a little to depend on—they had the hay and would get credit while it was burning.

2528. So that once you reached the 1st of June the distress was over?—Not altogether. In some cases along the seashore it was, and in others there was charitable help, such as Michael Davitt, who left £300 with Father Joyce.

2529. Did the guardians authorize you to cut those persons off the works?—No, but I thought it was my duty with Father Burke to prevent the law being abused if I saw it being done.

2530. What fair did the people sell their cattle at?—In Newport, on the 8th of June.

2531. What occurred that enabled the people to sell their cattle then?—It was not exactly that. It was

an improvement in the cattle, so that they were fit to walk to the fair.

2532. Mr. Louder.—I want to clear up a matter, when you speak of cutting off people, you mean, I presume, that you advised the Relieving Officer what to do?—Yes.

2533. Acting on your own personal knowledge of the people?—Yes.

2534. And of their means of livelihood?—Yes.

2535. Did you in any case direct the Relieving Officer to cut them off?—In presence of the priest I advised him.

2536. But you did exercise authority over him?—Not absolute authority; but he would be guided by my advice.

2537. You simply gave your advice to him, as to a matter of fact?—Yes.

2538. That is to say, as to the condition of the people?—Yes.

2539. One question more. It has reference to certain questions put to me by the Commissioners, as to the rise and fall of the destitution barometer, so to speak. I believe the guardians took into consideration all sums of money coming in by way of charity and regulated the relief by that to a great extent?—Undoubtedly.

2540. Mr. Davitt visited Loughbeg with myself?—Yes.

2541. And he brought a pretty large sum of money to Loughbeg?—Yes.

2542. And when that was so, we stopped the relief?—Yes, and then we afterwards resumed it.

2543. Kelp is a considerable source of industry in Westport?—Yes, it used to be; but now it is reduced. It is more poverty and distress makes them make it at all.

2544. They are able to get some credit, however, by all?—Yes.

Mr. Louder.—As to the application and report books, my attention has been called to an omission. The first application books made out, contained cases only without the names of the persons and they were rejected and fresh application books had to be made, and that accounted for the difficulty in procuring application books just then—these already used having been practically spoiled.

2545. Mr. Robinson.—Had they to be thrown aside?—Yes; as being improperly made up.

2546. Were they cast aside?—The books were rejected as worthless—and the reason was that the Relieving Officers in making out the applications put down the names of persons, but did not put down the names of the children, &c., and these books were rejected.

2547. Were the books thrown aside altogether?

Mr. Eyre.—Some were thrown aside altogether, unless when only a small portion had been used.

Robert Fanny Stacey, sworn.

2548. Mr. Robinson.—You are an ex-officio member of the board of guardians?—Yes, and I was Vice-Chairman of the Newport Board of Guardians before the amalgamation.

2549. Can you give us any evidence as to the administration of the relief under the Poor Relief Act, or any subject connected with it, such as the necessity for the expenditure?—Yes, at least I can answer any question that you wish to put to me.

2550. Have you been residing in Newport West during the summer?—Yes.

2551. Have you, from your knowledge of the people, and your residence amongst them, an opportunity of knowing how relief was administered under this Act?—Yes.

2552. Do you know many of the people who received

relief under that Act, and the works upon which they were engaged?—Yes.

2553. Do you think that the Act was efficiently and properly administered?—No, I think quite the contrary. In the first place, there were large numbers of people employed and receiving relief out of proportion to the destitute; and secondly, the rate of wages was nearly double the ordinary daily wages paid in this country.

2554. But were they not receiving daily wages only two or three days a week, and should we not take into consideration the fact that that was supposed to do them during the entire week?—Well, I believe that was so.

2555. Do you know of any cases in which relief

Witness

Mr. Patrick
Malley, P.L.O.

Mr. Robert
Fanny Stacey.

WATERFORD.
Mr. Robert
Foley, Sheriff.

was administered to persons who should not have received it!—I do.

2556. Can you give any instance of that?—I would rather not give any name.

2557. Your evidence won't be of much value unless you give instances?—Well, as a matter of fact I can give several instances.

2558. Can you give any instance of persons receiving relief who were not entitled to it?—Well, I will give the name of Pat Joyce, for instance.

2559. What is the extent of his holding?—He has six acres, and he is a rich man.

2560. Did he receive relief?—Yes.

2561. For what paid?—I can't exactly say.

2562. You say he is a rich man. In what does his wealth consist?—Well he has cattle, and he is always considered to be a wealthy man. He is what you call a gentleman man—a man who lends money.

2563. Has he sheep?—No.

2564. Can you give any other case?—There is Peter O'Donnell, of Carragee; but the fact is I have not come prepared with names.

2565. Well about Peter O'Donnell, what is the extent of his holding?—I can't exactly say; I know he has a large quantity of grazing land, and he has horses, cattle, and sheep.

2566. Can you say how many cattle and sheep he has?—He has about nine or ten head of cattle, and twenty or thirty sheep.

2567. Are you sure of that?—I am sure I am not far out.

2568. Can you give the names of any others?—Well, I know another man named Tom Gennelly, of Broomstown.

2569. What circumstance do you know with reference to him?—He has two sons and has a home and out; he has been working for me and I give him £1 14s a week, and yet that man was working on the roads.

2570. I see that 1,356 persons were relieved in your division during the week ending 29th May?—I know that the cost of the roads would be about £20; certainly that would be about what the work could easily have been done for, and yet £165 were charged against the division.

2571. Were you in your part of the country at or about the 29th May or 30th June?—I was, and as I heard mention made of the 8th June fair, I can say that was an exceedingly bad fair and that there was scarcely anything sold.

2572. Mr. Rodgerson.—There were 1,355 persons relieved on the 29th May, and on the 5th June there were only 116 under relief in the same division. Was there any alteration in the circumstances of the people that would explain or account of such reduction in the number of persons relieved as that?—No, I would say rather that that was the worst time of the year, before the new potatoes came in.

2573. You have mentioned one or two cases—one you give the names of any other persons that received relief, and who were not properly entitled to it?—Well, I cannot tell you.

2574. Do you know?—Well if you show me the list of the people I probably would point out more. In Newport West, they never had more than two or three or four persons in the workhouse at the most, and five or six on out-door relief. There were always about twenty families very poor, but there was no destitution of any kind so distressing that I could see. In fact this year I actually think it is very much worse than last year. This year the tenants paid in a year's and a half year's rent, though I did not ask them for it. A great many paid on the 1st of November.

2575. You must have been very fortunate if they paid you a half year's rent without being asked for it. But why do you say that this year is worse than last year?—Well, the new potatoes they are now digging were not near so bad last year.

2576. In what division?—In Newport West.

2577. And did not these people get Mr. Tuohy's potatoes?—Yes, but they are so bad and worse than the others.

2578. Do you know of any persons who require relief, and who were refused relief?—Well, yes, I know a man who was refused relief, and who deserved it.

2579. What is his name?—McIntire. He lived on Maynash Island so far as I know.

2580. Can you give any other name?—I would like to see the list.

2581. Mr. London.—I must object to giving the witness any assistance by letting him have any list. He makes the extraordinary statement that there was no distress last year. He has given a particular name or two. We have no sort of guarantee whatever as to what class of evidence he would give, assuming that he was provided with this list. The evidence he has suggested to give is not legal evidence, but of course I do not know what exactly is the rule of this Commission.

2582. Mr. Robinson.—Well, after all, he has a right as a taxpayer to see the list, and he may refresh his memory with it.

2583. Mr. London.—It was his duty when he came here to assist the Commission to have made up his case properly.

2584. Mr. Robinson (referring from the relief list).—Do you know anything of John Callaghan?—He was a poor man—he was appointed a gangman.

2585. Do you know John Guinan?—He is a well-to-do man.

2586. Why?—Well, he goes to England and he makes good wages there.

2587. What were his means at the time he received relief?—I only know that he has got a very poor holding.

2588. Mr. Rodgerson.—What is the rent?—Over £6.

2589. Do you know anything of his circumstances when he received relief?—I only know that the man had offered his rent last year, but it was refused, because his co-partners had not paid.

2590. Do you know Thomas Gorman?—He is a well-to-do man, too.

2591. Do you know anything of his circumstances at the time he was in receipt of relief?—I know the man has several head of cattle, and he has a very fair holding.

2592. Do you know Michael Gorman?—He is a poor man.

2593. Do you know Edward McLaughlin?—He is a poor man.

2594. Do you know Philip MacHale?—I think he is well to do.

2595. Do you know John Killogan?—He is a well-to-do man.

2596. Do you know Patrick Killogan?—No.

2597. Do you know William Kelly?—No.

2598. Do you know Pat Hanley?—He is well to do, say way.

2599. Do you know Michael Kane?—I don't know who he is.

2600. Do you know Hugh Masterson?—No.

2601. Or Martin Carahan?—He is well to do.

2602. Can you tell me anything of his circumstances at the time he received relief?—I see him very often, and he never goes along the road, only that he rides on his own horse, and he has cattle.

2603. What cattle has he?—I cannot say.

2604. Do you know Michael MacLaughlin?—Yes, he is a bog man and pretty well to do. He is employed by me and by others, and outside that, he is the best fisherman along the coast.

2605. Mr. Rodgerson.—Were they getting fish there when the relief was given?—Well, I cannot exactly say that.

2606. Do you know Anthony Callaghan?—Yes that man is well off. He was sent some £50 from America to my own knowledge.

2607. When?—Within the last two years.

2608. Can you tell what his position was at the time the Act was being administered?—I only say that he is well off—that has been his reputation.

2609. Do you know James Kenny?—He is very well to do. He is a cattle jobber, and he has money in the Ulster Bank.

2610. How do you know that?—Well, I have it from good authority—the authority of the man who saw it with him—the minister of Newport. The fact is that when the relief was given every man said, "Why should not I have a share of it as the thing is going," and I must say it was very heed for the relieving officers to prevent abuse.

2611. Mr. Robinson.—May I ask, Mr. Stacey, why you did not attend at the Board, and point out this irregularity?—Well, I have no influence whatever at the Board. I spoke to the guardian, John Curran, and he said there was no use in my raising it.

2612. Mr. Robinson.—Why did not you object to this abuse?—I did make a communication, but I found that I had no influence on the Board of Guardians here.

2613. As to Newport West as compared with Curran, is there much difference between the two as to the condition of the people?—There is a large population at Curran in isolated places, and they are very poor. In Newport West portions are mountainous, and there are valleys and bogs that grow potatoes very well, and the farmers are situated in them. One thing I can recollect, and it is this, that last March potatoes were offered for 1½d. per stone.

2614. Where was that?—At Mulmurry.

2615. Did they go up in price afterwards?—I do not think so.

2616. I think you mentioned a fair in the month of June at Newport?—Yes, I mentioned it as not being a good one.

2617. But were cattle saleable then which were not saleable even a week or a fortnight before that?—The 8th of June is the fair that people look forward to as being good for cattle.

2618. Well, was it not?—No; cattle were not in condition, and there were very little sold indeed.

2619. In point of fact there was not a good demand?—No.

2620. Was there any reason why there should be less relief given in June and July than in May in Newport West?—No, nothing that I know of.

2621. Mr. Robinson.—Do you consider that if the money had been administered efficiently and given in kind, £250 would have been sufficient to meet the distress in your division?—Indeed I do; there was nothing whatever to justify the expenditure so far as I can see.

2622. Mr. Robinson.—Were the works that were done under the Relief Act of a useful character?—I do not think so, and in our place they join a barren with the main road, and further than that, there was no advantage in anything they did, and besides that the work was very inefficiently done.

2623. Can you put a price or a value on the work done?—No, indeed, I cannot.

2624. Well, are not any of the roads which they worked of advantage to the people?—I would not go so far as to say that. The meadow land road up towards the bogs is a useful one, but my objection is that value was really not received for the outlay.

2625. Mr. Louden.—Do you think that it would have been better if the services of a proper engineer had been engaged?—I do, and I think also that the relief should have been administered through inspectors.

2626. You have spoken about Pat Joyce and others. Are they not tenants of yours?—Some of them are.

2627. Is it a fair question to ask you what brought you here?—To give evidence.

2628. As to what?—Anything that I should be asked about.

2629. You stated, I think, that the number of persons employed was out of proportion to the destitution?—Yes.

2630. And why did not you bring that matter before the Board of Guardians at the time?—I wrote to the Local Government Board.

2631. Well, they never took any notice of your letter?—It was not for publication; it was private.

2632. Well, cannot you answer the question whether it would not have been better to have brought this matter before the Board of Guardians?—I answered that before—I had no influence with them.

2633. How do you know whether you had influence or not?—I know very well. The guardians of my own division could not go up and attend. It was no use.

2634. Who is the guardian?—Mr. John Curran.

2635. Why could not he go?—Because he would not be listened to.

2636. Did you take any steps to ascertain whether the statements made with reference to the administration of the relief were true or false, or whether the statement that you and Mr. Curran had no influence on the Board of Guardians was true or false?—No.

2637. I believe you are under police protection?—No, I am not; my steward is.

2638. And are you not out of all harmony with your environment?—Quite the contrary, sir. I think an honest set of people never lived if they were but let alone.

2639. Oh, you would like them to be left alone?—I have answered your question.

2640. I think you said the wages were too high?—I did, and I say, moreover, that the people were simply robbed. This year I had to pay something like £50 or £100 in the way of rates; but it is a far greater hardship upon that class of people who will have to pay £5 or £4. I know I will have to pay £100 more than I ought to pay, but a poor man who pays £5 or £4 will suffer more than I who will pay £100.

2641. You said the wages were too high. What were they?—They were two shillings the day here.

2642. Were not they only 1s. 6d.?—I do not know exactly.

2643. What do you mean by talking about the wages being too high, when you say you don't know what they were—do you amend your evidence by saying you don't know?—I was told they were 1s. a day.

2644. But of your knowledge you do not know?—I was told by employers and guardians.

2645. If you were told the wages were 1s. 6d. per day, would you then consider they were too high?—Then I would say the reports in the newspapers were incorrect.

2646. But would eighteen pence per day be too high?—Yes.

2647. What do you consider a fair day's wages for a working man in this country?—Down in the mountains parts men would be glad to get 7s. per week.

2648. And you consider, I suppose, it would be a social wrong to give a man higher wages than that?—I only say that the relief wages ought to be rather less than higher than the ordinary wages.

2649. And you consider it an abuse that the Board should fix the remuneration at 18d. per day?—I do not know anything about them. I say the wages were too high.

2650. You mentioned, I think, that there was no distress last year—no abnormal distress?—Certainly not in my own division.

2651. Have you read the report of Mr. Henry Robinson, the Inspector?—No.

2652. Did Mr. Tuke distribute no potatoes in your division?—He did.

2653. Did you apply to Mr. Tuke, or any person connected with him, for potatoes for anybody in your

Witness
Mr. Robert
Vary

Witness.
—
Mr. Robert
Vasey Stacey.

division 1—I did not apply to Mr. Take, but I did to Mr. Rutledge & Wile.

2631. For what quantity of potatoes?—Not in any quantity; I asked him if there were any seed potatoes procurable, and that I would be very much obliged if he would get some good seeds for my tenants.

2632. At the time did you consider that they were destitute?—No. I have often given seed to most of them every year; in fact, I have given seed to some and sold to others, because I think there ought to be a change of seed every year.

2633. Mr. Robinson.—Even if they were not destitute?—Yes.

2634. Mr. Louden.—Were you a member of the Committee for administering the Relief Act of 1840?—Yes.

2635. How much money was spent on Malinbeg Pier?—£4,000.

2636. Was there a road leading to the pier?—No.

2637. That was scarcely a satisfactory job?—I am not prepared to say it was not.

2638. But is it not a fact that Malinbeg Pier is absolutely useless for all time to come?—At present that is so, but the work is not useless.

2639. You say at present it is, and, therefore, four or five thousand pounds was spent, by the committee of which you were a member, upon an absolutely useless work?—As it stands now it is useless.

2640. And you were a party to that; and, now, I would ask to compare that with the action of the guardians.

2641. Mr. Robinson.—As to this pier, I understand you to say it is useless in its present condition?—Yes; what we want is a little more money to make it very useful.

2642. If a little more money was spent originally would it have been a useful work?—Yes; I believe Malinbeg Pier before two years will be the harbour for that coast.

2643. Did you urge them to spend more?—Yes, but they had not funds. Altogether nearly £400 was subscribed for that pier. Mr. Manning said to me, "If you subscribe £100 I will get the Government to give £300." I did so, and, in fact, I could not do more.

2644. Is it not a fact that the pier runs into broken water?—No. If I did not subscribe we would not get the £4,000, and it is not right to say that the work is absolutely useless.

2645. Mr. Louden.—You spoke of Pat Joyce not being entitled to relief?—Yes, he is a man who goes to England.

2646. You spoke about his being a gambler man?—Yes, and so he is.

2647. Did he ever get relief authorised by the Board of Guardians?—Everything I say as to that must be taken subject to that—I have really no means of proving it, because I have no books. He is a very decent respectable man, but I say he should not have got relief, and I would say just the same for my own brother.

2648. I think you said that certain men offered their rents, and that one offered half a year's rent more than he might have done at last harvest; do you consider that to be a sort of his not being destitute in the spring?—I do, and I consider that he was not destitute.

2649. Could not he have improved between the period of distress and the time he offered his rent?—Undoubtedly he could.

2650. Then your opinion as to his condition at the time of the distress is not worth very much, and will you take it upon yourself to swear that the man was not absolutely destitute at the distressful period?—Well, I am sure he was not.

2651. Why?—Because he was in constant employment in England, and came over here with money.

2652. Do you consider that the fact of a man going to England is a test of his being well off?—Well, no, but if a man is in constant employment it would be

rather an exaggeration to describe him as in absolute distress at any period of the year.

2653. On your oath, is the man a tenant of yours?—Yes.

2654. And if he did not go to England from time to time, could he support himself and pay rent out of his holding?—I do not think so.

2655. And do you think that it is moral for you to receive rents from this man which he gets by going to England, and bringing home the money to give to you?—I do not think I am bound to answer that question.

2656. Mr. Robinson.—The question is not as to moral character, but as to the condition of these people at the time of the administration of the Act.

2657. Mr. Louden.—Well, he has admitted the fact that the man could not get rent out of the holding—that he could only pay him by wages received in England—and I do not think it is too much for me to suggest the question whether it is moral or just to take from the man rent that has not been taken out of the land, but has been earned by wages in England. (To witness).—How many Joyces are there in your division?—Several.

2658. How do you know that this Pat Joyce got relief?—Well, it is on the book, I believe—I think his name was read out to me.

2659. But how do you know that this particular Pat Joyce whose name is on the book is the Pat Joyce to whom you are referring?—I am assuming that it is.

2660. Well, so I see; but are there not many Joyces?—I believe this to be the man, and he is down on the book. I believe, for relief.

2661. Where does O'Donnell live, whose name was mentioned?—He lives at Carragh.

2662. How do you know that Peter O'Donnell was not destitute; do you know that he got any relief at all?—Except the general statement of the country.

2663. How long was it that he received relief?—Was it three days a week, or what?—I do not know.

2664. Well, it appears that you do not know anything at all about it?—Not about that.

2665. But it is about that we are asking you, and is it fair to make a statement about such a thing as this at an inquiry like this, when it would appear you know really nothing about it; you cannot prove whether the man was destitute or not?—I say that he is not destitute, and that he was not destitute.

2666. Why, talking of the time when relief, and assuming that you did not know what his condition was at that time, why do you take it upon yourself to say that he was not destitute?—Well, every man knows what his neighbour is worth.

2667. I will take that as the best answer you can give. Do you know his wife's name?—I believe his wife's name is Bridget.

2668. Is her name not Sibby?—No; her name is Bridget.

2669. Mr. Robinson.—There is a Pat Joyce down here in the book, and Bridget is his wife's name.

2670. Witness.—I have no personal feeling against these men because I mention their names; but the outside magistrates should not pay for relief given to men who should not receive relief.

2671. Mr. Louden.—For how long did Peter O'Donnell receive relief?—I do not know; if it was only for one day it would be enough for my argument.

2672. You mentioned the name of a man named Ginnelly, does he work for you?—Yes.

2673. Was he destitute at this particular time?—Certainly not.

2674. Why?—Because he has a car and horse which were employed by me at £1 a week, and he has two boys.

2675. The whole year?—Yes, and a very respectable man he is.

2676. Was he in your employment at the time he got relief?—I believe so; he must have been.

2697. Are you sure I—I know I paid him over 250 from last November to the present time.

2698. Suppose the man had no employment, is it likely that he would be destitute?—I dare say he would.

2699. Well, was he employed by you at this particular time?—Yes; he was in constant employment by me.

2700. And do you think that it was fair to the Board of Guardians, that a servant of yours should be receiving outdoor relief and his master knowing that it was being done? Do you think it was right or proper to allow such irregularity to continue; do you think that you, as a magistrate, should allow such a notorious fraud to be practised by one of your servants?—I wrote to the Local Government Board.

2701. I ask you, do you consider it fair to the guardians of the district or to the public, that you should permit a man in your employment to commit this notorious fraud by receiving outdoor relief? (The witness did not answer.)

2702. Can you not answer that question?—I have answered it.

2703. If Mr. Ginnelly got relief from the Relieving Officers it was a notorious fraud. Now, Mr. Stacey, I will take you again on your statement that there was no distress last year?—No, there was not in my district.

2704. Mr. Redington.—What age is Ginnelly?—About forty-five.

2705. What is his Christian name?—Thomas.

2706. Mr. Louder.—When did you get paid your rent last?—The other day.

2707. When?—A week or a fortnight ago.

2708. How long is it since you got ejectment decrees against your tenants on 6th?—Twelve months ago.

2709. Is it not a fact that in this disastrous year you found it necessary to go into the Quarter Sessions to obtain decrees against your tenants for non-payment of rent?—Yes.

2710. Against how many?—Seventy.

2711. What is the cost on each tenant of a decree; I ask that question of you who would like to be on such good terms with your people?—£3 15s. 10d.

2712. So you put your unfortunate tenants to £150 or £300 costs?—No, sir; they never paid a penny of it.

2713. But you won't lose the money?—All I can say is that they are suffering for it now.

2714. Well, in this disastrous year you obtained decrees against seventy of your tenants whom you now swear were not in distress; when did you receive rent from these tenants?—On the 15th November last.

2715. How much rent was due on the 1st of November?—Some paid 18 months; some paid one year.

2716. How much was due to you?—Oh, I do not know.

2717. It is important as showing that these people were in distress?—The year before, except three town-houses which refused to pay, all paid up to November day; there is not a better class of tenants in the whole of Ireland.

2718. Which, no doubt, is the reason you served them with these decrees—as rewards of virtue?—I did not say anything about that.

2719. How much money was due to you in the shape of rent, from the 16th November, from these tenants?—Till last November?

2720. I mean the tenants you got decrees against?—Eighteen months rent.

How much was due when you got your decrees?—About one year's.

2721. Then you got decrees last January?—Yes.

2722. And there was a year's rent due then?—Yes.

2723. And you brought ejectment processes against your tenants for one year's rent?—Yes.

2724. Just when the year became due?—Yes.

2725. I take it there would be two year's rent due last November?—Yes.

2726. How much did you receive?—Half-year's rent.

2727. A half-year's rent from those tenants who were in such a flourishing condition that you describe?—Yes.

2728. And you took it?—Yes, and it was all through accident.

2729. Oh, I did not think you were a class of man that would permit yourself to be coerced—especially to taking money?—I did not say that; it was the tenants who were coerced.

2730. But why accept half-year's rent when they owed you so much?—I am sure you have made a mistake; they only owed me twelve months.

2731. Did not they owe two years by November?—No, that is just your mistake; they owed one year by November day, and they paid me half-year's rent.

2732. Mr. Redington.—By the time the ejectment decrees were obtained did they pay you money?—Yes, of course they did—they settled those decrees; with the exception of six men, every single man settled between March and April.

2733. Taking these six men you mention, what did they owe on the 1st November last?—Some owed one and a half-year's rent.

2734. Did any owe two years' rent out of these six men?—Yes, one.

2735. How much did he pay?—He paid the whole of it.

2736. Two years' rent?—Yes.

2737. Why did you accept from the other tenants one half of what they owed you?—Because I could not get any more.

2738. Was it because of their inability to pay?—No.

2739. Why then, did not they pay you?—Because they were told not to do so.

2740. And did you submit to this?—Yes, rather than disturb the county.

2741. Outside a few cases you have given, have you any cause to complain of the action of the board of guardians?—I do not understand.

2742. In the administration of this Act, did you bring any charge except that of the relieving officers giving relief to certain persons whom you say were not destitute?—I say that money has been spent in large quantities and that no value has been received for it, and that it is unfair to impose a burden upon people as the result of the administration of the relief given, where so many abuses prevailed.

2743. Can you give any evidence as to the condition of the Union?—No.

2744. Mr. Redington.—Have you property in any other division?—I have property in Newport East.

2745. Are the circumstances there the same as in Newport West?—It is better land, as a rule, and the people are not so badly off; the holdings are not so small.

2746. Are you interested in any other division?—No.

2747. Did you hear the numbers in receipt of relief in those two divisions; in the week at the end of May?—Yes.

2748. Do you think they were excessive?—I do.

2749. Mr. Louder.—Did you cause it to be intimated to the relieving officers that they employed persons who should not be employed?—Yes.

2750. And you communicated with the Local Government Board?—Yes.

2751. And they never sent it to the Board of Guardians, they thought so much about it?—(No answer).

Warren.

Mr. Robert
Vasey Henry.

Captain Seargeant, &c., sworn.

Witness:
Captain
Seargeant,
&c.

2752. Mr. Robinson.—When did you first attend a meeting of the Board of Guardians after the Local Government Board's letter of the 26th of April?—I attended a meeting on the 26th.

2753. Can you tell me what occurred then in reference to the Relief Act?—Well, it was an adjourned meeting on a Saturday, I think; and they discussed the whole subject of the letter and the circular of the Local Government Board, and the way in which relief was to be distributed; there were a certain set of rules drawn up by the chairman and the board for the guidance of the relieving officers and for others as to the way in which the Act was to be administered.

2754. Was the letter of the Local Government Board of the 50th of April before the guardians?—It was, and we discussed it paragraph by paragraph.

2755. Did you give them full instructions as to the method of carrying out the Act?—Yes.

2756. What was the next day of meeting?—The next meeting was on the 5th or 6th of May, I am not quite sure which; at the time I came here, I heard that there were certain abuses of the Act, so to members of people employed and so on; I told the matter before the chairman, and I heard then that the books at that time were not ruled; after the first week I told them it would be illegal to go on without having the books properly written up; there had been some confusion before that, because some books were written up without the names of the families, the wives, and children, and so on; there was a difference of opinion between myself and the chairman on the point as well as the members of the Board; and as well as I remember, the guardians referred the matter to the Local Government Board to ask their opinion upon the subject; the Local Government Board wrote to me that this should have been done, that is, that the names of all the members of the family should be filled in.

2757. Were any cases brought before the board—any cases for discussion or investigation?—None at that time.

2758. Were any individual cases dealt with?—Not that I know of.

2759. Mr. Robinson.—Were the relieving officers there?—Yes, but they had not their books ready, and they were wanted to get them written up.

2760. What was the next day of meeting?—The 10th, I think; there was a letter from the Local Government Board explaining what I said at the previous board—explaining the subject I had referred to on the 6th—as to the necessity of entering in the names of the children, and the wives and other members of the family; we discussed the subject, and an order was given that these names should be put in, and three days were given to the relieving officers to put the matter into legal and proper form.

2761. Were the cases brought up in the relieving officers' lists?—No, I do not think so; at least not in my presence; the next day I came was the 18th, owing to the press of business at Swinford, Belmullet, and elsewhere, Mr. Conyn was appointed, and I attended with him.

2762. What happened on that occasion?—On that occasion the books were not written up I think; there was a discussion, and it was pointed out that the relief was still illegal because the books were not written up, and the board made an order pressing on the relieving officers to write up their books.

2763. Were individual cases discussed then?—Yes, some of the books were ready, and I think the chairmen went into them, and they discussed the merits of the cases, that was while I was present; they discussed the merits of the cases on the application and report books that had been made up.

2764. Was anything done in reference to the electoral divisions where the books were not made up?—No.

2765. But did they go into the cases? Did you on the 10th and 18th, tell them that they had been acting illegally, the application and report books not being written up?—I did on the 10th, and Mr. Conyn did on the 18th.

2767. What did the relieving officers say?—They said there was no time; that there was pressure of work that they could not meet; some of them were not present.

2768. Did they complain of there not being an enough of books?—Yes, one week they entered the books of families, and sent the families themselves, and they had to go back and re-enter them.

2769. Did they make excuses that they had not books at all?—I do not remember that.

2770. Were you present on the 18th of May?—No, I do not think so.

2771. Did you clearly make it understood at every meeting that the guardians should give out-door relief in the ordinary form?—Yes.

2772. Mr. Louder.—What was the first meeting you attended?—The 24th.

2773. There was nothing done on that day?—Yes, that was the adjourned meeting on Saturday.

2774. Were there not a large number of workmen present on that occasion?—Yes, there were several.

2775. Were there not a large number of people round the workhouse seeking for relief?—Yes.

2776. Was not the pressure of the people for relief so great that the Guardians applied and obtained leave from the Local Government Board authorizing them to anticipate the Act?—Yes, that was the 22nd.

2777. And you were present on that day?—No.

2778. Did you see any of those lists that were furnished to the guardians before the application and report books were made up. And were you here on the 24th during the whole sitting?—I think I left before it was over.

2780. I think you were going by train on that day?—Yes, when the resolutions were made I left.

2781. You had no opportunity of knowing the way the guardians took up these lists?—I refer to the lists from the guardians?—Of course I only know what took place while I was present.

2782. Mr. Robinson.—On the 26th of April no works had been started.

2783. Mr. Louder.—The rules were made up?—Yes.

2784. You heard them read out?—Yes.

2785. And you are of opinion they were fairly in accord with the wishes of the Local Government Board?—Yes, they were very fairly.

2787. When was the next meeting you attended?—The 6th or the 6th.

2788. On that day did you leave before the Board finished business?—I cannot say.

2789. That was the day of the very long sitting of the Guardians, and after you left they went into these lists, and there was an order made that the Relieving Officers should look up the guardians' lists; you cannot say if the Guardians went into these lists?—No, so I was not there.

2791. The 10th was about the day?—Yes, I believe so.

2792. Was there an adjourned meeting on the 10th?

Mr. Egan.—The adjourned meeting was on the 18th.

2793. Mr. Louder.—You were not present at that meeting?—No.

2794. And you cannot say if the lists were gone into?—I mean the lists produced from the guardians?—No.

2795. When next were you present?—On the 18th.

2796. Was Mr. Conyn there?—Yes.

2797. Were the application lists gone into?—Some one's book was ready, and you ruled the cases.

2798. Now as to the Relieving Officers making up

Witness.
Captain
Barnes,
L.G.C.

their books with the names of the wives and children, what excuse did they make to the Board for that?—You told them it was unnecessary.

2308. Was it not stated that it would be utterly impossible for them, taking into consideration the names, number of people getting relief, to go fully into each particular case, and set out the names of the children?—I do not remember that; I remember a distinct statement from Mr. Fitzpatrick that you said that it was unnecessary to give the names of the children; I think he gave that as a reason for the books not being ready.

2309. You don't remember the question as to the impossibility of the Relieving Officers going round and getting the names of children; taking into account the amount of work thrown upon the Relieving Officers, the operation of going from house to house, and taking into consideration the thousands of houses which would have to be visited, would it not have been of very great labour?—No doubt it would have been of very considerable labour.

2310. Would not going into the various houses at Achill, Ballycroy, Glenties, and the Killybegs, and so on, involve an enormous labour if they had to write down all the particulars in their books?—Yes, if they had to do that, but there was no necessity for that.

2311. Would not the writing of the names be of very great labour?—Yes.

2312. How could they ascertain without doing that the necessary particulars unless they depended upon hearsay evidence; how could they write up the report and application books, insert the names of all the children, and prepare them in such a way as they could refer to them without going to the houses?—They would not have to look for the people, the people would come to them.

2313. But then they would be depending upon hearsay evidence, and it would not be prudent in a case like that, to take the mere word of the individual?—No, but they could visit the houses if the names were given them, and verify those statements.

2314. But would not the going to those houses entail a very great and excessive labour, taking into consideration the great extent of the country?—Each Relieving Officer would have one district.

2315. And going from house to house would be of great labour?—No doubt, it would be of great labour.

2316. And taking into account the great pressure of business, was there not at least some excuse for their not having the names down?—I think so, to a certain extent.

2317. Is there anything in the Act of Parliament requiring the names of children relieved by giving them outdoor relief?—We have here the Acts of Parliament that regulate all our conduct from the Local Government Board down to ourselves.

2318. And is there no provision provided for the Relieving Officers to put down the names of children receiving outdoor relief?—I believe it is the regulation of the Local Government Board.

2319. Can you point out any such regulation showing the Local Government Board held that it should be done?

2320. Mr. Robinson.—The Local Government Board are the authorities prescribing the forms of all kinds which are to be kept; and the application and report book must be kept where any outdoor relief or exceptional relief is given; and if you look at the end of the book you will see that form.

2321. Mr. Louden.—But has not the Local Government power in exceptional cases of emergency to rescind or suspend any such order?—I suppose they would have if they had power to make the rule, they have power to alter it.

Mr. Robinson.—With the sanction of the Lord Lieutenant.

2322. Mr. Louden.—That being so, then this Board of Guardians was not very much at fault in seeking the suspension of that regulation?—I cannot well express an opinion on that point; they received an answer to their communication stating that it should be done.

2323. After that being done the Board of Guardians did all in their power to compel the Relieving Officers to do their duty?—Yes, I think they gave them ample orders to do it.

2324. I believe you are aware that the Board of Guardians had some difficulty with the Relieving Officers in getting them to comply with the requirements of the Act?—Yes.

2325. You know of the resolution calling upon one of them to resign?—Yes.

2326. You have not a very long experience of the working of the Act here?—No.

2327. Mr. Redington.—Are you aware that additional Relieving Officers were appointed in some of the districts of the Union?—Yes. There was one appointed to each of the Achill Electoral Divisions.

2328. Do you think it would take a long time for the Relieving Officer to visit the houses of the applicant in one electoral division?—It would altogether depend upon the number.

2329. Do you think a fortnight was an unreasonable time?—I think they could have done it in that time.

2330. Was the mail sent to Achill during the first week?—I cannot say about that.

2331. Were you present at the meeting on the 18th May, when additional assistance was given to the Relieving Officers to facilitate their work?—Yes.

Mr. A. N. Conyn, L.G.C.

2332. Mr. Redington.—What is the first meeting you attended?—The meeting of the 18th May.

2333. Had the Relieving Officers their books made up on that date?—No.

2334. Had any of them?—The Relieving Officers had not their books complete, but some had at least to a certain extent.

2335. Were the cases on these books gone into by the Board of Guardians?—Well, some cases were.

2336. Will you describe the procedure adopted?—The general process, as I recollect, was that the Guardian of the division and the Relieving Officer were at the end of the room, and they went over the books, and then the books were brought up to the Chairman who attached his signature.

2337. Were the names called out before the Chairman attached his signature?—No, as a rule they were not.

2338. Is it your opinion that the relief was given after investigation by the Guardian of the district and

the Relieving Officer?—Yes, when it came to be investigated at all.

2339. Were instructions given on the 18th May to the Relieving Officers?—Yes, in some few cases.

2340. When did you attend next?—On the 3rd of June, I think.

2341. Were the Relieving Officers in attendance on that day?—I think they were, I have no record of it, but I think they were.

2342. Was the same procedure adopted?—On the 24th May they practically commenced to write up their books, and on the 3rd of June all the books were ready.

2343. Were not questions gone into on the 3rd of June?—A good many were gone into on the 3rd of June, the books were practically written up between the 24th of May and the 3rd of June.

2344. Were not orders for provisional relief given? Was it only for provisional relief that the cases were entered in the books?—The Guardians sanctioned the

Mr A. N.
Conyn, L.G.C.

Witness
Mr. A. N.
Gossy, C. O. I.

relief that had been granted; they mentioned in point of fact the relief from the time up to the date of the signing of the books.

2833. You mean up to the 3rd of June?—Relief had been given before that.

2837. Did you take any steps to point out that that was not correct?—Yes; I see from the report in the newspapers that at that meeting I stated that they ought to go through every individual case, and then strike out the names of those who ought to be discontinued and put on the names of those who should receive relief; that the method which they had hitherto adopted was contrary to the Act of Parliament as they would see by reading the circular that had been sent to them. That was at the meeting of the 18th May; on the same day I reminded them of the circular sent to them by the Local Government Board, informing them that the Act of Parliament required that the names of the children, &c., should be returned on the Application Books, a discussion took place during which I stated that what ought to be done was to go through these books; that the Relieving Officer had no authority, or any one else to decide who ought to be on or off; that the Guardians themselves should deal with each individual case and let it be passed or refused; and that it was very unfair to put the responsibility on the Relieving Officer. I said that the first day I attended.

2838. As to the expenditure, were you ever asked in reference to that?—Yes; and I constantly in reply to questions pointed out that each charge should be borne by each clerical division; a great many Guardians seemed to think that it would not be so, and it was thought that the rates would not pay for this expenditure at all.

2839. Did you point out that the amount to be given by the Local Government Board was limited, and that any excess over that should be borne by the respective clerical divisions?—Yes.

2840. Mr. Louden.—They all know it perfectly well.

2841. Mr. Robinson.—You recollect the question of not renewing the works for a week?—Yes.

2842. Did you make any observation in reference to that?—Yes; I repeated that the cases should be gone into, that it was injudicious to be having those wholesale increases or reductions; I knew, of course, it was not easy to be done, but I pointed out the necessity for following the law.

2843. When were the books finally got into proper order?—I think I wrote to the Board a letter at the end of June, I think it was about the 18th of June, the pressure was getting less from that, but I was not here, I was ordered somewhere else.

2844. In putting on cases of relief, or taking them off were they decided by the Guardians and the Relieving Officer, or were they decided by the full Board?—My experience was that it was generally decided by the Relieving Officer, and the Guardians of the district, or perhaps by two Guardians, and the book was then brought before the Chairman, and he signed.

2845. Mr. Robinson.—Were questions asked as to the nature of the cases before the books were initialed?—I won't say that such a thing took place.

2846. But as a general rule?—No; in fact the Chairman said he did not know the cases, and it was the Guardians or the Relieving Officer alone who knew them.

2847. Did the Chairman's signature refer to the past or the ensuing week?—My impression was that it always referred to the week previous; of course, this must be said, that the Relieving Officer took for granted that he could go on.

2848. What do you mean by saying he took for granted?—That was the course to be pursued; in point of fact they were trying to make up for time lost in the beginning; my belief was that the names were, as a rule, signed with reference to time that was passed.

2849. Mr. Louden.—Were you here on the 10th May?—No; I did not come until the 18th.

2850. Did you read the rough minute book?—Do you mean for this occasion.

2851. Did you read the minute of the 10th of May, by which the Board ordered "all relief works to be suspended until Friday next, in order that the Relieving Officers may have all cases of persons receiving relief entered in the Application and Report Books, when the Guardians will consider each case on its merits, and pass or reject same." Did you read that?—Yes.

2852. And I presume you approved of it?—Yes.

2853. Now, how many of the Relieving Officers attended here with their books the first day you attended?—I could not say how many, but I know there were some who did not, for a discussion took place about them.

2854. Did most of them attend?—Yes.

2855. How many particular men had to be ruled on that occasion?—There were not very many.

2856. The Guardians met, I presume, at 11 o'clock?—Yes; and we sat here until late.

2857. Did you think it possible for the Chairman, for example, to know anything of the condition of Ballycorry and Achill?—Well, perhaps not, but the books were not ruled, and there is no doubt that the Act of Parliament was not complied with.

2858. Did not the Chairman in each case put questions to the Relieving Officer as to his own personal knowledge of the case, before it was finally decided on, as a fit or proper case to be on the list?—Yes; there was a formula like that—it amounted to "do you approve of all in this book?" and the Relieving Officer said "yes"—or the Guardian.

2859. Would the Chairman have a difficulty of knowing if these people were destitute or not?—I cannot say.

2860. Would he be able to know personally any more than was to be derived by questioning the Relieving Officer as to the circumstances?—Well, he did not do that in my presence.

2861. But he could not be supposed to know the condition of all those people himself?—I think he should try and find out.

2862. How many days were you here during the administration of relief?—Five days, I believe.

2863. How many times did you attend the meetings of the Board?—Four or five times.

2864. You are aware that on many occasions the Board sat until eleven or twelve o'clock at night?—Well, I do not know that; but I know that they sat until very late, at all events.

2865. Did not the Guardians display great devotion and energy to their duties in remaining so long to discharge their work, for which they received no remuneration?—I have not a word to say against them.

2866. Did they not display great energy?—It is certainly laborious work.

2867. Did you remain at the meeting from the opening to the close?—I think so.

2868. You are not sure?—Well, I am not quite sure. I know that one day I had to be at Clifton and I did leave, but, except that day, I believe I was there.

2869. Did you examine the accounts to see what cases were by way of provisioned relief and what cases by way of relief continued?—I got whatever information I could from the clerk. Very often it was deficient owing to the books not being written up. I saw the books at the time, but I have not refreshed my memory since by looking at them.

2870. Are you aware, for instance, that Fitzpatrick never, after the first week or second week, drew a ticket until the name was submitted to the Guardians?—Well, Fitzpatrick, I thought, tried to do his duty as well as everyone else.

2871. Did he not spend a day and a night here filling tickets that were passed that day?—I am not sure.

Westport.
No. A. B.
Comps. 1-4-3

Mr. Louder.—He remained in the workhouse filling tickets that already had been approved of, not for past but for future relief.

2872. Do you consider provisional relief to be illegal?—I had particular instructions to give and I gave those instructions, and I cannot say that the law was followed in every case. My instructions were to get a certain course pursued.

2873. There is no disposition to deny that?—I can well understand your pleading on the part of the Guardians that you could not carry out with absolute regularity all that was necessary, but that is quite a different thing from contending that you did when you did not.

2874. I did not say that, and that was not my question. What you take any steps to find out what cases were provisional and what cases were not?—No, I did not.

2875. I presume that if you thought the Guardians were acting in any way illegally you would have thought it your business to point it out to them?—Yes, and every day I did point it out to them, and I wrote to the Local Government Board, and when my report came down you contended that you were right.

2876. But you acknowledge that this resolution was passed by the Guardians directing every relieving officer to put into his application and report book every case, and not to give the relief until the Guardians discussed each case?—No doubt about it. So far as your resolutions were concerned, they were most excellent.

2877. Do you think the relieving officers did not do their best?—I do think that the relieving officers did their best, and I think that the Guardians were rather hard on them, and threw on them a great deal of responsibility for what they should have done themselves.

2878. Could they have done more than they did do?—No. I do not want to cast any blame.

2879. We do not say you do; we only want the fact?—They had a very tremendous amount of work to do, and all I wish to put forward is the fact that to a very large extent they did not do it legally, and I said so at the time.

2880. I will examine Mr. Fitzpatrick to show that the names had to be reproduced; and, indeed, that was the complaint they made, that we called upon them to produce the names week by week as fresh cases. Is it not a fact that they had to reproduce the names week by week?

Mr. Robinson.—Once the case is laid before the Guardians the relieving officer has no right to deal with it again. There must be a fresh application made.

2881. Mr. Louder.—The same cases were reproduced from week to week, and some were rejected; you sent a report to the Local Government Board?—Yes.

2882. Did you read this?—

"The Guardians, in reply to the letter of the Local Government Board, 10th, 1886, beg to say that they consider the relief given by the Relieving Officers to the people who were reported to be in a starving condition was a matter of urgent necessity. The destitution of these people was a matter of public notoriety. It was testified to by Messrs. Davis, Tuke, the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, *Illustrated London News*, *Irish Times*, *Freeman's Journal*, as well as by the Archbishop of Tuam and the clergy of the Westport Union. A charge was even made—infinitely, no doubt, against the Guardians that they had caused the death of a certain Mrs. McLaughlin, who, it was alleged, died from starvation. Conscious of the urgent necessity which existed to relieve the people, the Guardians applied to the Local Government Board for their permission to administer relief in anticipation of the Poor Relief Bill becoming law. This authority the Guardians received by telegram on the 22nd ultimo. They accordingly proceeded to administer relief through their Relieving Officers to able-bodied persons who were destitute, and to landholders who by the existing law were excluded from outdoor relief. The Guardians are aware that they acted against the provisions of the Statute therein relating, but they acted in the

interests of humanity, and with the sanction and under the authority of the Local Government Board. On the question of administration the Guardians believe that there have existed some irregularities in the issue of relief tickets and the admission to work of persons who were not destitute. Such was inevitable. In the setting on foot of an extensive system of relief throughout the whole area of this union, extending from Achill Head and Lower Ballycroy to the Killybegs, it would be impossible to have entirely prevented fraud and abuse; but the Guardians are of opinion that the cases improperly relieved did not amount to 5 per cent. of the numbers of persons relieved. Before the receipt of the Board's letter of 10th inst. the Guardians had ordered the Relieving Officers to place the names, &c., of all persons in receipt of relief in the Application and Report Book. This order has been complied with in almost all cases, and the Relieving Officers declare that they will have their books filled on Thursday next. The Guardians are determined to cut down the expenditure as much as possible, but they feel constrained that a large portion of the fund granted by Parliament will be necessary to save the people from death by starvation from this until 1st of August. The Guardians are beg to appeal to the Local Government Board for authority to continue the relief of the destitute poor under the Poor Relief Act, as the authority given will expire on the 15th of May, instant. In consequence, the Guardians beg to remind the Local Government Board that to charge the relief to the electoral divisions would be to draw on next year's crops. This would mean the ruin of the people and the bankruptcy of the undersigned union."

Did you read that?—Yes.

2883. Mr. Robinson (to the Clerk).—Read the reply of the Local Government Board.

Mr. Spem.—It is dated the 17th May, 1886.

"Sir.—The Local Government Board for Ireland has had under consideration the resolution of the 10th inst., in reply to the Board's letter of the 24th inst., relating to the administration of out-door relief, in which the guardians state they 'Are aware that they acted against provisions of the Statute therein relating, but they acted in the interests of humanity, and with the sanction and under the authority of the Board.' The Board cannot pass unnoted this part of the guardians' resolution, as it would seem that the guardians desire thereby to make the Board a party to the irregular proceedings referred to, and they wish to point out that nothing which they did authorized the guardians to deviate from the rules prescribed for the guidance of Boards of Guardians and Relieving Officers on the subject of the administration of out-door relief, or warranted the guardians in allowing relief to be obtained by persons to whom it had not previously been duly ordered by the Board of Guardians. On the 24th ultimo the Board wrote to the guardians authorizing them to administer relief out of the workhouse, in food or fuel to poor persons, under certain conditions expressly set forth, and the Board enclosed with this communication a printed instructional letter on the subject. Both these letters appear to have been before the Board of Guardians at their ordinary meeting of the 22nd ultimo, and in reply to a telegram received from the guardians on that day, the Board telegraphed to the guardians calling attention to the conditions under which the relief was to be given, and also to the last two paragraphs of the printed letter, which related to the making of grants to aid in defraying the charge of any Electoral Division, but the Board did not at any time say anything that could lead the guardians to think that in administering such relief they might do so otherwise than in the manner prescribed by the regulations. The guardians, therefore, must be held solely responsible for any illegal expenditure which may take place in the distribution of out-door relief."

I am, Sir,

Thomas A. Mosser,
Assistant Secretary.

2884. Mr. Louder.—You have heard read the remark that the Local Government Board would not be responsible for the illegality of the guardians?—Yes, I have heard it.

Mr. Robinson.—Mr. Conyn was not there at the time.

Mr. Louder.—That had reference to giving relief to able-bodied persons, and persons in occupation of over a quarter of an acre of land. The Act had not reached us at the time, and we were under the impression that we were acting legally—but that was cleared up, because the Act was made retrospective—not having the Act before us at the time we were to a certain extent

Witness
Mr. A. H.
Conyn, L.G.O.

embarrassed, and our action was mainly directed to help the absolutely destitute.

2885. (To the Witness).—Did you read the minute of the 24th of June? I think it was calling attention to the fact that the guardians considered that the relieving officer of the Ballyerny Electoral Division had given relief in an illegal and irregular manner, &c. &c.—Yes, I heard that.

2886. Do you not consider that the guardians acted in this instance according to the circular and the law?—Yes.

2887. Could the guardians, under the circumstances, have done more than they did in striking off all the cases they considered illegal, and in refusing relief to those who worked and were not fit cases for relief?—Yes, that was very good in its way; but what they should have done was to have had the names beforehand of those who were to get relief. But under the circumstances, no doubt, the best thing was done, but at the same time irregularly provided.

2888. May I take it that under all the circumstances of the case the guardians acted according to the best of their ability?—I do not question that they took a great deal of pains and trouble in the administration of the Act.

2889. Will you say that they were guilty of any breach of duty?—Decidedly.

2890. In what way?—In violating the Act of Parliament.

2891. Is what instance?—Well, they broke through the Poor Law Regulations in not investigating the cases before they were relieved.

2892. How can you say that, when you were not present?—It is a matter of public notoriety.

2893. No, pardon me; it is a matter of public notoriety?—Well, the relieving officers admitted yesterday that until the 24th of May the books were not written up. I can quite understand your saying they had so much to do that these irregularities were inevitable, but I do not understand your contending that there were no irregularities.

2894. I ask you would you hold the guardians responsible for any malfeasance that occurred when they had given the relieving officers full and proper instructions?—That is not a matter which I feel called upon to give an opinion on.

2895. Mr. Robinson.—You heard the resolution of the 10th that all relief works be suspended, &c. Now you attended pretty constantly from the 18th of May. Can you say was each case attended to and inquired into on its merits?—Not as far as I saw.

2896. Will you state it as a matter of fact?—As a rule, as far as I saw, they were not.

2897. Were many cases discussed on the 18th of May?—No, there were not many. Some of the relieving officers as had their books had their names gone into.

2898. Were they discussed on their merits?—A few were, but I say that as a rule the relieving officer and the guardian of the particular division talked over the matter. The chairman would ask the relieving officer or guardian, "Have you reason to believe this is all right?" and if the answer was "yes" he intimated it.

2899. Mr. Louden.—Now is there any rule of the Local Government Board which enables a Board of Guardians to depute to a committee the work of the Board?—Well, I am not very well up in the Act.

2900. Had the Board of Guardians authority, or had they not, according to the rules of the Local Government Board, to depute to the guardians of the respective divisions and districts—to, say, three guardians—the power of the Board in ascertaining certain facts—have they not power, for instance, to appoint a finance committee?—I have no doubt.

2901. Well, you seem to be of opinion that the guardians acted illegally in appointing a committee of guardians in their own boardroom?—No, I did not say that. I merely stated what was done and what

was not done. The cases were certainly not discussed.

Mr. Robinson.—He says, as I understand, that the cases were discussed by the guardians and the relieving officer, but that the individual cases were not discussed by the Board generally.

2902. Mr. Louden.—Have the Board not authority to refer to a committee the discussion of such a question?—Well, I will give you the best opinion I can. A committee may be appointed, so to speak, and they can report to the guardians and the guardians act on it. That is the usual course.

2903. Do you consider that if the guardians so appointed marked on the book, for example, whether the party was to receive relief or not, after consultation and discussion with the relieving officer, do you not consider that that would be sufficient report to justify the chairman in initiating the case or not as the circumstances warranted?—I can only state what was done.

Mr. Robinson.—The Board are to "decide" whether any, and if so what relief or further relief shall be granted in each particular case, and the decision of the board shall be forthwith recorded in said books, to be authorized by the signature or initial of the presiding chairman.

2904. Mr. Louden.—My point is whether the board has authority to delegate certain matters to a committee to decide on the giving of out-door relief. We appointed a committee of guardians who knew the circumstances of the different divisions or districts to investigate the cases, and to present the books for initial to the chairman. That was the course adopted. If the relieving officer or guardian pointed out certain cases that should not be on they were discussed before the whole Board. Is not that so, Mr. Conyn?—Yes, no doubt, in some cases.

2905. I would wish to ask Mr. Conyn this question. You came here on certain days. Have you any opportunity of saying that the cases ruled by the chairman without public discussion were not arranged or ruled a week before as decided cases, and perhaps ruled to be continued for weeks?—As regards that I think I agreed with you that the thing was very irregular, and that the names of all the members of the family should be inserted.

Mr. Louden.—I contended that the Local Government Board could dispense with that.

Witness.—I was of opinion that it should be done.

2906. Mr. Louden.—You must here and saw certain names passed and certain initials asserted without discussion. Can you say that those were not cases passed the day or week before to be continued?—Well, I can only repeat that the guardian of the division, and sometimes two guardians, discussed the matter down there at the end of the room, and the cases were initiated for the past—for relief already given.

2907. Was that so in every case?—My impression is that it was. I do not want to put it further. Besides, that was in accordance with your own principle, for I have heard Mr. Louden say that he never put a man off, or never put a man on.

2907a. Exactly. Did you consider it the necessary business of the Board to re-investigate the cases, and have discussions on cases decided a week before, cases that had been already settled and agreed on?—Yes, if they were going to order any fresh relief.

2908. Were you here when the Achill men came in?—I never met them here but once. They were very seldom here, the distance was so great.

2909. Take the case of Fitzpatrick, would it be incumbent on the Board of Guardians to reconsider those cases in Fitzpatrick's book, which were passed the week before for relief to be continued?—Decidedly. How could you check it if you did not.

2910. For continuous relief?—Yes, certainly.

Captain Sweeney, L.G.I., sworn.

2911. Mr. Robinson.—When you attended the Board meetings, were questions asked you as to who should pay for the extra expenditure under this Act, and whether any portion of it would fall on the ratepayers?—I told them it would all come out of the rates.

2912. Mr. London.—Did the guardians cease to

give relief when they found they would have to pay? When they found that any expenditure in excess of that provided for by the Parliamentary grant, and recommended by the Local Government Board, would fall on the rates, did you find that the guardians were disposed to stop relief?—No, the guardians knew from the first that everything would fall on the rates.

Witness.
Captain
Sweeney,
L.G.I.

Edward J. Corrigan, sworn.

2913. Mr. Robinson.—What is your complaint, Mr. Corrigan?—I complain against the Poor Law Act altogether.

2914. But what is your specific complaint in reference to the question before us?—Well, sir, Mr. Conyn, the Inspector to the Board, went into Mr. Cleary's, and he is the contractor and the guardian. That was last May.

2915. Mr. Robinson.—What is the date?—I cannot exactly say for sure, and I have something to say of Francis McCormack.

2916. Mr. Robinson.—With reference to Mr. Conyn, you say he went into Mr. Cleary's house, is that so?—Exactly, and some parties complained very bitterly of how the work was going. I tell you that Mr. Conyn turned right into Mr. Cleary's shop, and I know he would support the relieving officer, Corrigan. There was people starving, I admit, but the relieving officers thought more fit to return the names of their own friends. Father Conyn called on me to report to himself those matters, and so I did. Some of those gentlemen who received relief, were better able to pay than many a good man.

2917. You complain that some persons received relief who were not entitled to it?—Yes. Number one relief was given to all persons who worked for Cleary last March. Number two relief was given to persons who hadn't a right to it.

2918. Give the names?—There was James McManus for one.

2919. You say he is not destitute?—Oh, no, certainly not.

2920. Who was the next?—Anthony Sweeney and Neal Conyn, and James Coffey, and Michael Gallagher, and many more.

2921. Were these given relief on the relieving officers' heads or on Father Conyn's?—The relieving officers'. Father Conyn told me to prevent abuses, and that was as early as the 28th of April. Now, what I want to say is that the relieving officers there went and refused to give relief to their own friends.

2922. Were those people badly off?—Certainly not.

2923. What means had they?—They were gentlemen who were lending meal and money.

2924. Which of these gentlemen were doing that?—Well, take Anthony Sweeney, or James Conyn, or others.

2925. Can you give a few more?—Certainly. Take James Coffey, of Castlehill. It was all one grand abuse; it was just "scratch me, and I'll scratch you," not a doubt of it; but I will go into it all fully to-morrow.

2926. No, you will please explain all you have to complain of now?—Well, I will give no more at present, except against Mr. Conyn.

2927. What is your complaint against him?—Well, he was a Commissioner under the Land Commission, and he was hostile to me and my views.

2928. And is that your complaint?—No, that is not all; he went down there to Cleary's place, and he an Inspector to the Board, and in he walked after driving down on a car—in he goes to Cleary's with the two relieving officers, and I don't know what took place inside.

2929. Mr. London.—Have the contractors who supplied the meal for Father Conyn been paid?—No.

2930. Were the men employed by Father Conyn destitute?—Yes.

2931. How is it proposed to pay Father Conyn?—By relying on the Government first.

Relieving Officer Conyn.—As to the four persons mentioned, I may say James McManus has nothing, and he is destitute.

2932. Mr. London.—Was Sweeney in receipt of relief?—Not at all.

2933. Or Coffey?—No. I know nothing about him.

2934. Is he a poor man?—I believe he has a small farm, and is a struggling man.

2935. Do you know Gallagher?—Yes; he is in ordinary circumstances.

2936. Did you give him relief?—No, never. I may mention that about twenty cases, in getting on which Mr. Corrigan was partly concerned, were struck off, and he now comes to make false charges, without any foundation.

The Inquiry was adjourned to next Monday.

Mr. Edward J.
Corrigan.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, 1886.

Nov. 29, 1886

WESTPORT UNION.

The Commissioners resumed the Inquiry at eleven o'clock.

Mr. London.—I wish, gentlemen, to amend my evidence in one particular. I was asked by you, in effect, whether I considered the action of the relieving officers legal, or you asked me did I approve of the action of the relieving officers, and my answer was, that I considered their action splendid, or that I considered they acted splendidly. I wish to amend that. I considered their action splendid, taking into consideration their great devotion, and the amount of energy they displayed in relieving the poor, but I con-

demned their action, and I always did, and my condemnation exists in writing, in not having made out the accounts, and kept their books as they were ordered to do by resolution of the Board. From the very commencement I endeavoured to make these men keep their accounts according to the directions given them, but I found it almost utterly impossible to make them do so at the commencement. However, they had invariably an excuse, which I think had a great deal to do with it, which was this, that in consequence

Mr. London.

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Witness
Mr. Louder.

of the very great amount of labour they had to perform, they found it impossible to make up their books in time.

2387. Mr. Robinson.—Could not that have been done if you increased the staff, and appointed, say, three to each division?—Most decidedly, but it was strongly objected to, the more so, as the intimation came that the cost of the over-grants would fall on the rates; there was a strong feeling, not alone amongst the guardians, but in the country generally, against the employment of other relieving officers.

2388. Then, it was on the ground of cost that you did not enlarge the staff?—It was owing to the opinion that prevailed, and the pressure on the guardians. Sometimes the ratepayers came here, and even broke into the room, and the porter was, on one occasion, seriously assaulted, and but for the intemperance of myself and some other guardians, there would, undoubtedly, have been serious rioting, and there is no doubt that there was a very strong feeling, indeed, against the staff being increased. When we knew that anything in excess of the grants would be chargeable to the rates, we, of course, recognised the fact that we should be as economical as we could, so much so that where-ever a private charity existed in any particular district, we stopped the relief until the funds of the private charity were stopped.

2389. Mr. Robinson.—In Ashill the relieving officer had only to look after one division?—Well, they had to attend weekly.

2390. Did they all attend weekly?—Some, perhaps

not, owing to pressure of business, but their books would be brought up all the same, and under consideration weekly.

2391. Could they not have made up their books?—I do not want to express any opinion about that, but the guardians did everything they could, and the inevitable excuse of the relieving officers was that they had not time. Whether it was entirely their fault or not I cannot say.

2392. Mr. Robinson.—A series of charges have been made, at the instance of Father Conway, as to the Ballycroy division, but the relieving officers have been discharged, and all we can do is to say we will refer them to the relieving officers. Perhaps, for the information of the guardians, I should read out these charges.

Mr. Louder.—With every respect, sir, I think the Commissioners cannot take legal cognisance of any charges in writing, as the gentlemen who furnishes the charges does not do so on his oath. If you send it to the guardians, however, they can consider it as a communication from the Local Government Board or the Commission. But I think, as this is a sworn inquiry, a written statement should not be treated as evidence.

2393. Mr. Robinson (to Edward J. Corrigan).—You have handed in this statement, by whom was it written?—

Mr. Corrigan.—By me, and read over by Father Conway.

Mr. Robinson.—We will submit the charges to the guardians.

John Egan, Clerk of the Union, sworn.

Mr. John
Egan.

2394. Mr. Robinson.—Are your books balanced to the 25th of March?—They are.

2395. And are they up to the 28th of September?—No, and for the reasons I stated. Until I got the accounts from the relieving officers it would be impossible.

2396. How did you obtain the information given in the first section of column 3?—I had the actual data.

2397. Was the provision cheque account made up for the half year up to the 28th of September?—Yes.

2398. As to the other section in column 3—outdoor relief?—That includes all the outdoor relief between the 25th of March and the 25th of September.

2399. What is the cost of outdoor relief for the half year, inclusive of relief under the Poor Relief Act?—£9,701.

2400. What is the total expenditure under the Poor Relief Act?—£9,241 and £730 for tools, &c., that is £9,971.

2401. Well, now, is that quite accurate?—Yes, down to the date at which I made the return.

2402. Does that include any outdoor relief that was given after the expiration of the order?—No; these figures do not include that.

2403. What was the expenditure under the ordinary Relief Act, from the expiration of the Local Government Board order, to the 25th of September?—It was £90 before the Act commenced and after it finished.

2404. £90 covers it all?—Yes.

2405. Mr. Robinson.—I think there is some mistake. You were the other day that the total expenditure under the Act was £9,896 4s. Now, it is clear that does not include the ordinary outdoor relief before the Act came into operation and after?—No.

2406. Now, you say £90 represents that?—Yes.

2407. And that should be added to the £9,896 4s. 1—Yes.

2408. Then it comes to £9,986 1—Yes.

2409. There is then a difference of £5 in your figures, is that not so?—Yes, and I cannot exactly say how that is.

2410. Mr. Robinson.—What were your total liabilities on the 25th of September last and your total

assets?—The bills outstanding chargeable to the electoral divisions, amount to £212.

2411. Contractors accounts outstanding?—Yes, and salaries.

2412. Is there anything due to the treasurer?—No, there was a balance in favour of the guardians of £385.

2413. Were there any other debts at that time?—No, except loans.

2414. Do you mean loans for sanitary purposes?—Yes.

2415. What were the assets at that date?—The amount of post-rate outstanding was in Westport, £174 6s. 4d.; and rate, £194 0s. 9d., the whole amount of rate outstanding, £368 2s. 1d. In Newport, including said rate and accumulated arrears of rate, total, £265 odd. The Newport portion included Parliamentary grants.

2416. On what basis did you make your calculation for the estimate of clothing and maintenance?—I put down the same number of paupers—167—that is the number relieved the previous year. I simply went on the fact.

2417. Is last year a fair year to take for your estimate?—Well, as a matter of opinion for indoor relief, perhaps not, as there was such a large amount of outdoor relief. If there was not so much outdoor relief, there would be a larger number inside.

2418. Did many take their discharge from the workhouse to get relief outside?—No, I would not say that.

2419. Well, if this was a good year possibly so many might not come in?—Yes. In considering the question of out-door relief, I went back for a year and took the half-year ending the 25th of March and the previous half-year, and I took this as the data, and estimated the out-door relief for the whole year at £142 for the thirty-one divisions of the Union.

2420. Do you not think that is rather low?—Well, a man like me is bound by what he sees before him, and cannot very well exercise any discretion.

2421. The next item I see is £75 for sundries, and then come establishment charges?—Well, I fell back there on the preceding part of the year, and I made

up what it had cost in the previous year, and I made such slight alterations as I felt justified in doing. I have a schedule of them here showing every item and giving the full details. Here is the expenditure for 1886 and my estimate for 1887 (produced.)

2972. Then it would seem that you simply adopt 1886 as a basis?—In some cases, not all.

2973. During the last year you had an unusually large staff for out-door relief—have you curtailed your expenses under column 8?—Yes, see the relieving officers—that is a permanent staff—£240 a year, and I acted in consideration of that fact.

2974. Under the head of Medical Charities Act, how did you treat that?—I found out what last year amounted to, and then there had to be a slight alteration, for I had to get the bills from the contractors.

2975a. You took last year, however, as your basis?—Oh, yes.

2975. Are you sure there were no items in last year's medicines unusually high, such as instrumental?—Yes.

2976. Well, what about registration and Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act?—That is a small thing. Then there is the remuneration under the Parliamentary Voters Act, in which I had not any discretionary power. It was paid by the Government last year but not this year, at least there was a feeling of very great doubt and difficulty about it. All were in hopes that the Government would pay it, but if they do not it will affect the rates to close on £100.

2977. Did you allow for remuneration to poor rate collectors, scavengers, and yourself?—Yes.

2978. Mr. Robinson.—You have no explosives officer in Westport?—No. In the Westport portion of the Union we had an explosives officer, but the Guardians got him abolished. He was getting £5 a year. The office was abolished on the 31st of December, 1885. There is, however, an explosives officer in Newport still retained.

2979. Cannot the Guardians manage to get that done by the police, for the officer gets rather a large salary?—You pounds; and I think it very likely the Guardians might wish to have that charge abolished, but it is a change on the petty sessions district, and there is only portion of it on Westport. The magistrates who sit at Newport are responsible.

2980. The magistrates for the amount and the Guardians pay it, and if the Guardians indicated to the magistrates that it should be abolished and done by the police, I have no doubt that the suggestion would be carried out?—It is a very small thing.

2981. The next item I see is "sanitary expenses." I suppose that consists of instalments of loans for improvement?—Yes, instalments of loans. We borrowed £600 and we are paying it off.

2982. Do you estimate nothing under the Parliamentary Voters Act?—No, nothing. The estimate in respect of births, deaths, and marriages, and juries, is a fixed sum. I was sure that the Government would pay for the registration of parliamentary voters.

2983. Mr. Roddington.—Did not the Guardians pay one half under that head?—They paid the old allowance. They paid me £10.

2984. The Parliamentary Grant was given for the whole of Ireland. It was very small in most unions and the Guardians supplemented it?—They did not do it here, and I would rather say so. I notice away had it. I only get £50 for my half-year's work, and permit me to say that of that £30 I paid £15 10s. for clerks, and I reported that to the Government.

2985. Go to column 17—"Parliamentary Grants?"—That is £600 for ordinary expenditure.

2986. Now, what does that include? Does it include all the Grants under the Relief of Distress Act?—Yes, to the amount I already stated, £5,881, and £600 from the Government under Medical Charities and Sanitary Acts.

2987. Does it include Parliamentary grant to the 25th of March, which you have not yet received?

—Yes, the grant we expect daily will be a grant for one half-year for March, 1886.

2988. Mr. Roddington.—Is there not a mistake in the tot in column nine?—I think there is an error of £15?—No, there is a charge which accounts for that. The substitute for the master of the workhouse, Miss Corcoran, got £15 in September.

2989. Mr. Robinson.—These available rates outstanding in column 16 include the £360 seed rate?—Yes.

2990. Is any of that irrecoverable?—The collectors say none of it is.

2991. Of these available rates outstanding can you fix the amount irrecoverable?—Take Westport, and of that £174 4s. 8d. of poor's rate, I venture to guarantee that every penny of it is available, with the exception of about £13 on empty holdings.

2992. The rate that will be necessary to discharge year liabilities and meet the ordinary expenditure of the year is that correctly set forth here—an average rate of 3s. 10d. in the pound?—Yes, as closely as I could calculate it. This estimate is necessarily not quite accurate, having regard to the discrepancy under the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act.

2993. Do your figures in columns 31 to 35 include the amount of expenditure set forth in the relieving officers' books, or are they taken from the contractors' accounts?—From the contractors' bills, as certified by the relieving officers, and to these I shall hold them.

2994. But you say there are a few bills outstanding?—Yes, and a few have come in, as I explained, within the past week.

2995. Have you been able to make a return, showing how much the contractors' accounts are below the estimated expenditure?—In one case, Mr. Green, of Newport, he is £17 in excess of the contractors' bills, that is to say, the out-door relief list is £17 in excess of the bills furnished by the contractors. In a similar case, there is McGilgan, of Angharawen, he is £3 10s. in excess.

2996. There are out-door relief lists not yet written up?—There are some of the books and lists not written up.

2997. Mr. Roddington.—How is the excess of £17 you mentioned accounted for?—Well, I asked the relieving officer, and he says he cannot account for it. He says he gave the relief, giving tickets for it, and it is in his application and report book, and yet the bills have not turned up.

2998. Do you think the deficit is large or small?—I do not think it is large. I do not think out of the £9,600 odd there will be a discrepancy of £40 or £50. There are very few errors indeed.

2999. But, only for the embarrassed financial position of the union, and that the guardians required money immediately, it would have been better to have waited until the relief lists were completed and all the bills were in?—Yes, but the Chairman will bear me out in saying that they pressed and urged me very much indeed, and it was in a sick bed I made out that estimate.

3000. Take column 34—who instructed you to charge the toll in that way?—It was an understanding of the guardians, I think, and in accordance with that I charged them on the union at large.

3001. It does not seem quite just?—Well, but the guardians discussed it, and I acted in accordance with the wish of the board.

Mr. Leedes.—I think it is illegal.

3002. Mr. Robinson.—You had the assent of the board on the matter?—Certainly.

3003. Did they assign a reason?—No, it was after discussion it was done.

3004. The poundage under the Poor Relief Act was 2s. 5½d., as far as you can ascertain, and the total, 2s. 9½d., would wipe out all?—Yes.

3005. That would clear you?—Yes, and I estimated a sum for myself which, I hope, will not be considered unreasonable.

Witness
Mr. John
Egan.

Witness.
Mr John
Egan.

3000. Mr. Lowden.—How much did you estimate for yourself?—£50.

3007. Mr. Robinson.—What is the amount for tools?—£317 11s. 6d.

3008. Where are they?—Some have been sold.

3009. Have you credited the amounts gained by the sales?—No, the sales took place on Thursday week, and some in Achill have yet to be sold, and some to be brought in. Some were sold to the Flax and Harbours Commissioners in Achill, and the returns have not come in.

3010. When they do come in, is it your proposal to credit the union at large?—Yes.

3011. How much of the £317 will you recover?—I do not think more than £100.

3012. You ought to get more than that?—I am afraid not.

3013. £403 is the item for present salaries of officers?—Yes, and there are the books from Thour's, we got 120 application books and an immense number of forms and tickets.

3014. 120 application books?—Yes.

3015. Did you use them all?—I have not one. I have Thour's bills here.

3016. Mr. Robinson.—Under the head of work-houses and other books and stationary you reduced it from £80 last year to £53 this year?—Yes.

3017. Why was that?—The time the Franchise Act came into operation we had to get a great number of books, and a lot of them remained over.

3018. Under the head of collectors' perquisites you have added £84 to last year?—Yes, there is £200 not collected yet. And you have its cost of last year.

3019. Yes—£216?—Yes, it will cost £200 this year.

3020. "Election of Guardians," you estimate at only £25 as against £90?—Well, it was enormous last year; we had the whole union contested. In Newport there was another election, and a by-election, and two since March.

3021. There is an item of £35 for extra temporary substitutes for the Doctor last year?—I do not like to anticipate any sickness of the medical men. It is only when they get sick the substitute is paid. Doctor Allman was sick and one substitute got £14, one £16 10s., and another £4 4s.

3022. Is none of this paid by the Parliamentary grant?—No, and it is a hardship.

3023. You do not put down anything for substitutes for Medical Officers, do you anticipate that no Doctor will get sick?—Yes.

3024. Sanitary expenses I see amount in your estimate to £580 as against £353?—Yes, there were expenses which will not be represented this year, such as £25 for plans of sewage. The burial grounds expenses show a decrease in the estimate from £55 to £13, and I do not know that I am quite right in that for the grounds are all enclosed.

3025. What is the total?—£4,727 9s. 11d.

3026. Do you think you will be able to carry on with that?—Yes, unless some unexpected pressure occurs, it will suffice for the present union.

3027. That necessitates a lower rate than you have been accustomed to?—It upsets all the theories of those who were opposed to amalgamation and it has surprised myself—the extremely satisfactory results and the reduction of rates. I know a gentleman, a member of Board in Derryishan, and two years ago he was paying 4s. 6d. rates in that division, and now it is not one half of that.

3028. Mr. Lowden.—What about Ballycroy?—Ballycroy North, we last year 2s. 6d., and this year it will be 2s. 7d. Ballycroy South is more remarkable—The rate last year was 4s. 2d., and I estimate it this year at 2s., and that includes 1s. 6½d. for the poor relief.

3029. State what the ordinary estimate for Ballycroy would be for this year, striking off the rate for the poor relief expenditure?—1s. 4½d.

Mr. Robinson.—I hope the guardians are more

reconciled to me now than before, seeing the result of the amalgamation.

Mr. Egan.—I can say solemnly, and I only express the feeling of the entire Board that we have always felt grateful to you and that it was with regret we lost you.

3030. Mr. Robinson.—The first estimate of 1868 was considered by the guardians and altered, I believe?—Yes, and they determined to reduce it, and the reduced rates have been struck. I hand in returns of both. (See Appendix). We received a letter from the Local Government Board a fortnight afterwards, stating that they considered that the Guardians should further consider whether the amount proposed to be assessed was not greater than could be levied in a single rate.

3031. What conclusion did the guardians come to?—They came to the conclusion of striking a rate in proportion to the means of the people to pay.

3032. The capacity of the Electoral Divisions to pay?—Yes, and on the 18th November, 1868, they agreed to the rates, a return of which I have handed in.

3033. They have not been yet approved of?—The Local Government Board have said nothing in reference to it.

3034. Mr. Lowden.—You say there is an Explosives Officer in Newport?—Yes.

3035. Has your Board ever paid him his salary since the amalgamation?—The magistrates pay him through your banker. It is paid by the Treasurer on a warrant signed by two of the magistrates.

3036. What is the amount of the outstanding said debt on the 30th September. I think you mentioned it?—£530.

3037. Of that, how much was due by the old Newport Union?—I could not tell you, because the accounts have been, and are of necessity, kept in the one account.

3038. At any rate it is not a fact that a voting order came from the Board of Works for a sum of £300?—It is.

3039. And did not the Treasurer of the Union pay that £300 to the Treasury?—Yes; he remitted it.

3040. Is it not a fact that the money so paid away was collected by the Newport Guardians before the amalgamation?—Yes.

3041. Is it not a fact that it was expended by the Newport Board of Guardians for other purposes than the payment of the said rate?—It certainly went into their ordinary account.

3042. Notwithstanding, it was charged by warrant against this Union and paid?—Yes, against the general fund of the Union.

3043. Did you estimate that fund in the estimate you struck last year. Did you calculate for the payment of that £580 in the estimate of last year?—No, for this reason—I assumed that that £580 was originally charged against the Electoral Divisions of the Union.

3044. Therefore I take it a sum of £580 was taken from the available assets of the Union this year, for which you had not estimated?—Yes.

3045. Notwithstanding which, so far as the ordinary Union account was concerned there has been no financial embarrassment?—No, because we did not overdraw the account.

3046. Does what you call the "Parliamentary Grant" include the allowance under the Medical Charities Act, of 1851?—It includes one half of the salaries of the permanent officers and one half the cost of medicines.

3047. We get an allowance from the Government for a dispensary house?—No.

3048. Not for parlors?—No.

3049. Nor fuel?—No.

3050. And none of the charges under the Medical Charities Act of '51 except in respect of salaries and medicines?—No, nothing else.

3051. Have you ever considered the question of

whether the Guardians were not entitled to receive one half the total expenditure under the Medical Charities Act of 1851?—In former years the Board has considered it, and they made repeated applications to the Government to pay half the amount, but they would not.

3052. In recent years no application was made to the Local Government Board for any other allowance than the salaries and medicines?—No, not since the first refusal came.

3053. Now you say £4,737 would meet the expenses of the year?—Yes.

3054. In striking an estimate last year did I not propose a reduction of something like six-pence?—In the Newport portion?—Yes.

3055. And what was the reduction in the other portion of the Union?—Two-pence in the pound.

3056. But it was six-pence in the division of the old Newport Union?—Yes.

3057. Is it not a fact that you were of opinion that the Guardians did wrong in sanctioning that reduction?—Some of the Guardians were of that opinion and I did think they were reducing it too much.

3058. And notwithstanding that great reduction it is not a fact that but for the Act passed by the Liberal Government there would have been a surplus?—Yes, that is if all the available rates were forthcoming.

3059. Is it not a fact that the Newport Board of Guardians passed a resolution declaring that if the amalgamation were carried out they would refuse to administer the Newport portion of the Union?—They declared it, I know, but I cannot say that a resolution to that effect was passed.

3060. Is there not a solemn resolution on the books declaring that if the Local Government Board amalgamated the Unions, the Guardians would refuse to administer the Newport portion of the Union?—Whether recorded or not, it was the feeling.

3061. And is it not a fact that I got placed on the Minute Book my dissent from that?—Yes, I believe that was recorded.

3062. Therefore, the other resolution was recorded?—Yes.

John J. London (Chairman) sworn.

3076. *Mr. Robinson.*—Can you tell me, Mr. London, on what principle the guardians acted in reducing the estimate after the receipt of the letter from the Local Government Board?—I will answer that by reading the resolution we sent to the Local Government Board. In that resolution we said:—"In striking the new rates, the guardians have provided fully for the ordinary expenditure of the year ending 29th September, 1887; and partly for the payment of the debt contracted under the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1885. The balance of the relief debt over and above such grants as the guardians may receive, will be met in such manner and on such terms as the Government, acting on the report of the Poor Relief Commissioners, may provide. In fixing the poundage rate for each electoral division the guardians have taken into consideration the poverty of each electoral division, the liability of the ratepayers, and their ability to meet their obligations."

3077. What do you mean by the "liability of the ratepayers"?—I mean taxes, general shop debts, rent, in short, the general social condition of the district.

3078. And did you take off rates where the people were least able to pay?—The resolution continued,—"The guardians desire to observe that in most of the electoral divisions of the old Newport Union, the tenants are not allowed the statutory deduction of poor's rate from their rent, even where judicial rents have been fixed. For such persons a rate of 2s. 6d. is equal to 3s. where the statutory reduction is given. This, of course, the guardians felt bound to take into consideration." On the estate of the Marquis of Sligo the tenants were point-blank refused their statutory deduction.

3079. *Mr. Robinson.*—Is that a matter taken into

3083. Well, and notwithstanding this opposition to the amalgamation, you admit that it is for the benefit of this Union?—Yes, financially it is a benefit, but it increases the labour.

3084. In your estimate, you took as your basis the bills, I think you said, of the contractors, and not the relieving officers' accounts?—Yes.

3085. But I think it is a fact that you found scarcely any discrepancy worth speaking about?—Yes.

3086. In Green's case there is a difference of £17 in excess, and in McMan's £3 7s. over the contractors' bills. That, I understand, is over the entire Union?—Yes.

3087. So that, so far as you have gone, any discrepancies are in our favour and not against us?—Yes.

3088. I presume that the loss of some tickets amongst the numerous number of people who received them, would account for the deficiency?—Yes, unrepresented tickets would account for it.

3089. As to the tools, I believe the Board of Guardians passed no resolution directing you how to dispose of them?—No, they did not.

3090. Do you not think it unfair that certain divisions should be charged for tools when no tools were used in those divisions?—Yes, I do.

3091. The guardians, I believe, were of opinion that £20,000 would meet all the expenses of the year?—Yes.

3092. And was not that carried unanimously?—Yes, finally it was.

3093. In making your estimate No. 1, did you take into account the very large sum of money standing due as rates in Achilli?—Yes, we did take it all.

3094. In making out the second estimate, did not the guardians provide for the ordinary working expenditure of the Union?—Yes.

3095. And besides that, did they not, in the second estimate, provide for part of the relief debt?—Yes.

consideration by the Sub-Commissioners in fixing rents?—No, and furthermore, the Sub-Commissioners would have no right to take into consideration any such agreement if it existed. The law now is settled that where a judicial rent is fixed all prior contracts are broken and the ordinary statute law takes their place. There was, in the administration of the Act of '81, a decision to the effect that prior contracts stood and that the Commissioners simply charged the rent, but Judge Andrews and Judge Johnson and the full Court changed that.

3096. *Mr. Robinson.*—As a matter of fact the tenants could claim the deduction?—Tenants being in arrears are in the power of the landlord.

3097. *Mr. Robinson.*—You give this as a reason that the people in those divisions are less able to pay in those divisions than might be imagined?—Well, no, although that may be so, but my point is that where tenants do not receive the statutory deduction a rate of 2s. 6d. is equal to 3s. in places where they do receive it. They are so steeped in arrears that they cannot get it and are at the mercy of the landlord. Up to a very recent period in this Union—for example when I became a Guardian,—all those excepted under the 6th Victoria, valued at £4 and under, paid the whole rate and not the half, and had done so for thirty years.

3098. But they got it back when paying the rent?—No. On the Marquis of Sligo's estate it was customary to charge the tenants all the taxes, and on every receipt was printed "tenant pays all taxes." Even those valued under £4 paid all poor rate. It was after a long discussion that the Guardians got this changed and the taxes were taxed, and then came the question of "cotenancies." Most of the tenancies

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were "co-tenants"—thus "A, B, and Co.," that would probably include fifty tenants. Until quite recently the books were made up in such a way that the name of the immediate lessor did not appear at all.

3083. Can you give the names of the divisions in which the occupiers pay all the rates?—Well, I am now answering to a question of belief, founded on my experience in the last courts, where all these matters were discussed.

3084. Can you say as to Aghagower North?—The tenants pay all the rates.

3085. Aghagower South?—There may be some there who allow deductions to the tenants.

3086. A. Allensvale?—There they pay all rates.

3087. Bunderagh?—The tenant pays all rates.

3088. Clare Island?—I cannot say as to that.

3089. Now Clogher?—I do not know what land

the Marquess of Sligo holds there, but I know Lord Larnan allows half rates; but in Clogher I have reason to know that there are landlords who do not allow half rates. In Crough Patrick the tenants pay all the rates; there may be one or two exceptions. I myself, for example, am valued in Crough Patrick to about £130 a year, and I pay all rates. It is one of the divisions heaviest hit by the Relief Act. Drummin, most of it is held by the Marquess of Sligo, and all the rates are paid by the tenants. In Enniskill all the rates are paid by the tenants without deduction. In Kilgover nearly all the rates are paid by the tenants, except where they are valued under £4, and then the tenant pays nothing. In Kilmaclear the Earl of Larnan is owner, and most of the tenants are valued under £4, and then the tenant pays nothing, most of the rates will therefore fall on the Earl of Larnan, who is valued at £1,500 a year. Most of Kilmaclear belongs to the Marquess of Sligo, and the tenants, for the most part, pay all rates. In Loughbeg the tenants pay all rates. In Omeavon there was no relief expenditure except for tools, and the tenants there are allowed half rates. In Silvenishagh (the Marquess of Sligo's property) the tenants pay all the rates. Westport is in such a mixed state that I cannot say with accuracy, but I believe that all the tenants outside the town pay all rates.

3090. As to the poverty of the divisions in Westport union, has it been very general?—There is no doubt about it.

3091. Mr. Robinson.—In those divisions you have mentioned does the public cess fall on the tenants?—Yes, entirely.

3092. Do you know what it is?—A couple of shillings—from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 10d. Kilmaclear pays all rates—at least that part owned by the Marquess of Sligo.

3093. Mr. Redington.—You say the poverty of the divisions was taken into consideration?—Entirely. Our first desire was to strike a rate to pay off everything.

3094. In Clogher the tenants only pay half rates according to law, yet there is a very large reduction made in the rate, only 5s. was taken off by you on the year, what was the reason of that?—Well, I must say the guardians had more trouble with that division than any other. The poverty was intense, and it was on account of the great poverty that the rate was so high. When we came to strike the rate the guardians of the division represented the inability of the people to pay.

3095. But you struck off 4s. 11d.?—Yes.

3096. On what ground?—The poverty of the division.

3097. Then you think it poorer than Clare Island?—Yes.

3098. You only struck 10s. off there?—Yes. I may say that Fitzpatrick used to stop here waiting for tickets, and the distress evidenced was indeed most intense. Women used to remain in arched all night, and when asked why they did so they would say that so long as they remained away the children would have hope, but if they went home they would die of despair and hunger.

3099. In Kilgover 4s. 5½d. was taken off?—Yes. Kilgover is wretchedly poor.

3100. Is there much difference between Kilgover and Loughbeg?—It is unequal. Some portions are fairly well off and some wretchedly poor.

3101. In Westport itself the rate is lower than last year?—Yes, that is owing to the amalgamation.

3102. But in spite of the expenditure?—Yes.

3103. Was it necessary to go below the rate of last year?—Well, we took this into consideration; in Westport there are artisans and other people who pay all rates which are collected from them by the owners of tenement houses, and these people suffered as much from destitution as the others.

3104. In Knappeagh you struck a rate a penny lower than last year, though 6s. 6½d. was the rate to strike to pay off their debts, was that justifiable?—Yes, the fact of the debt being so high was a proof of the destitution being so high. You heard Mr. Stoney saying that this was a worse year than the last, but nothing has occurred since last year to enable the people to recuperate.

3105. If the people of Knappeagh paid 5 per cent. off their shop debts and 50 per cent. off their rents they would have nothing to call their own. The high rate proves the destitution of the people last year. It would not be there but for the destitution. The normal rate of Knappeagh was low and the high rate proves the destitution of the people to have increased abnormally.

3106. Then why did you not take more off Achill?—Because there the landlord pays all the rates.

3107. How does that affect the case?—We took into consideration entirely the ability to pay, where the landlord did not pay the rates. We took 50 per cent. off Corran.

3108. Well, but in Achill you took 2s. 7½d. off 6s. 7½d., but in Clogher 4s. 11d. off a small rating?—We went on the idea of the ability of the district to pay. Achill belongs to the Irish Church Missionary Society which is an enormously wealthy corporation. There is no private individual concerned. It is a society with millions of money to spend in converting the people of Achill; and if they can spend millions to convert, they may reasonably be expected to spend something to feed the people.

3109. Well, now, in Doega you took off only 1s. 6½d. You left the rate 5s. It had been 5s. 6½d. Surely that is a very poor district?—There are no rates paid there by any but the landlord.

3110. The landlord, is not the Irish Church Missionary Society there?—No, it is Mr. Fife. He owns considerable property there. I may mention that in that case I made a proposition to reduce it by 2s. in the pound more, and the other guardians were against me.

3111. Does it not seem to require explanation that Doega gets only 1s. 6½d. struck off, and Clogher 4s. 11d.?—It requires explanation, but it is so. The Board considered the matter, and, indeed, I proposed to have Doega reduced by 2s.

3112. I see that in Ballycroy North you gave a greater reduction than in Doega?—Well, the people of Ballycroy received an enormous amount of relief.

3113. Surely Achill did so, too?—But they do not pay rates.

3114. Do the Ballycroy people pay rates?—Yes.

3115. And that is why you give them more relief in the way of rates?—Yes, because they are poor. The whole idea was to regulate the rates according to justice, and the capacity of the people to pay. Clogher was so bad, that I myself got two grants of £100 for two divisions. One went to Father McDevitt and the other to Father O'Malley, and after that I got further grants for them. They are the poorest people in the world—the Clogher people. I have travelled a great deal of the world, but I never saw greater poverty than there. Newport West is a very poor division.

3116. There was a considerable reduction there?—Yes.

3117. In Knappeagh you relieved them to the extent of 5s. in the pound, and in Newport West only 5d.,

therefore I may assume that Knappagh is the poorer place?—Well, no.

3116. Why, then, give so much more relief?—I think the old rate in Newport was higher than in Knappagh.

3117. Well, even that would not explain it, but the old rate in Newport West and in Knappagh was exactly the same. Now, Knappagh is in 6d. and Newport West 2s. 6d., and the inference is that Knappagh is poorer than Newport West?—I won't say that these matters were discussed. I would not say but that Knappagh should be a little more. I certainly would not reduce Newport West more than it is. In the case of Newport West I think the landlord pays all the rates, and that would account for it.

3118. Is the landlord the Church Missionary Society?—No, it is Mr. Stoney.

3119. How far can these rates be levied?—A higher rate could not be levied compatibly with the interests of the people.

3120. But you were going to levy a higher rate?—Well, I think they would pay us before the landlord. There are shopkeepers on all sides to whom the people are in debt. The rents have not been paid. There is no contribution against rent, but they pay the rates, and I think when the collectors come before you, you will find a remarkable condition of things in that way, for the people approve of the way affairs have been managed.

3121. Have they not always paid well in Westport?—Yes, the workhouse is a popular institution.

3122. But why did you strike a high rate first, when you say the low one is all they could pay?—We expected the people would pay it. I believed when striking that they would pay it, and that we would collect it, but taking into consideration the great tension amongst the poor, I believe if we collected that, it would bring about general bankruptcy, for they would not, and could not, pay the rents and the shopkeepers.

3123. Would you be able to collect it?—Well, not the whole of it. Of course there are lots of people from whom there is absolutely nothing to come in all the divisions, and from them we would not be able to collect, of course.

3124. Well, having struck such a rate, you appear to me to have gone to the other extreme and struck a very low rate indeed?—I can state positively we have gone as high as we could under the circumstances, taking one thing with another, and it shows what the feeling of the guardians is, when in every case they not only provided for the ordinary expenditures, but a very fair dividend for the payment of the relief debt. And now I may mention on the question of ability to pay, that in investigating the poverty of the people last year, I went as deeply into the question as possible. I investigated the question indoors and out of doors—not officially but for my own information—and the result was that especially in the mountain districts I found men who were believed by reports to be well off, to be sleeping in poverty. These men had pawned everything, all their furniture, beds, blankets, and top coats. In some cases they had thirty or forty pawn tickets, which they showed me. Indeed I was astonished at the general poverty which prevailed, and the causes which led to that have been in operation for the past five years. The sudden stoppage of credit was what really brought about the crisis. They have been going down ever since the American competition commenced.

3125. Would it be more difficult to collect these rates now than it was five years ago?—Well, the people will pay us.

3126. The rates can be collected without difficulty?—The people will certainly pay us, there is no doubt about that.

3127. Why could not a higher rate be charged at least in some divisions; you knock as much as 5s. off Knappagh?—We went there entirely on the large debt that was accumulated last year—we found there

was great amount of relief in Knappagh, and concluded naturally, I submit, that where there was so much relief there must have been great poverty, and the guardians of the division declared that they could not pay if we struck a higher rate. I may say that last year, about April, the guardians had the first positive proof of the great distress which existed. A Bill was brought in by the Liberal Government to meet the exigencies of the question, and a great deal was also done by private enterprise, by Mr. Tuke, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Michael Davitt, and we had a repetition of the relief which was extended some years ago, when the Duchess of Marlborough and Mansion House funds were started. The normal condition of the people on the west coast is poverty. They depend almost entirely for support on the labour market of England. Since the agricultural depression however set in, in England there is not the same remuneration that there was, and the result has been a general disorganisation among the poor here. There is no legitimate means of living. All the holdings are too small to support them. In our administration of this Act, the charge may be rather that we did not give enough but certainly we took every precaution to prevent abuse.

3128. Suppose the Government had not given this grant?—I am free to admit that I consider all grants of the kind very demeriting, and I think they are evidences of anything but good government, for if there was proper government there would be no occasion for grants of the kind. In fact I regard the system of giving grants as like the system in the medical world of treating the symptoms and not the disease.

3129. But assuming the grant to have been out of the question?—I say that a Bill should be brought in to enable the Boards of Guardians—under the Local Government Board—to borrow money at a low rate of interest, which is now being given all round and which indeed appears to be the general practice for all the

3130 Mr. Robinson.—At what rate of interest would you suggest?—Well, say 4 per cent. to cover principal and interest. I think it would be of advantage if a fund could be available to come to the assistance of unions that are in a state of distress, not because of mismanagement, but because of the poverty of the people. For instance, the balance of the Church Fund might be given at 2½ per cent. to help a union which was embarrassed, not because of mismanagement, but because of having to relieve a people whose normal condition is one of poverty. I say therefore, that to my nothing of justice, but on the ground of expediency, the guardians ought to be enabled to do what the Government ought to do by other means—and means ought to be placed in their hands and at their disposal to give relief money lent to them at the cheapest rate, say 2½ per cent. to be spread over a term of years. Now, before I go any further I wish to impress upon the Commission what I believe to be the necessity for enabling the guardians to obtain loans from time to time to relieve the poor in congested districts. Not touching the main question of how those congested districts are to be dealt with, I say the first thing would be to pass a Bill, enabling the guardians to borrow money at a low rate of interest to treat these congested parts.

3131. How many years repayment would you suggest?—Do you mean for principal and interest?

3132. Yes?—Well I would say 5 per cent. extended over a period of 60 years.

3133. Mr. Robinson.—What in your opinion as to the period of years over which the payment of this debt should be extended, supposing you got a loan to pay it off?—I would suggest some such principle as that applied under Lord Ashbourne's Act. The fact is there is really no guarantee that we may not have a visitation of distress next year as great as or greater than last. There is not the slightest doubt that the ice is running down on the north coast here, and the

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100, meeting the Gulf stream current, slaves, and when the wind blows round to the north-west we have this result, that it kills and kills vegetation, and there has been great suffering and distress caused by the delay of the early crops as well as by blight. It was well known that in the year of the Duchess of Marlborough's Fund, in 1881, it was not from blight the people suffered, the cause of the failure was cold. The crop was chilled in the ground early, and I myself was travelling round the country in November when the corn was standing in the fields uncut.

3134. What is your suggestion?—That a sum of money be lent to the guardians on the same principle as it was lent for the purchase of land under Lord Ashbourne's Act, and the payment extended over a considerable number of years. The measure brought in should be of a general character, in so far as it would deal with the future time with the condition of the congested districts. A measure should undoubtedly be brought in whereby the Local Government Board from time to time should have the power to pay off the rates or otherwise give relief, to make advances to boards of guardians—loans which might be used to pay off rates or otherwise. I think also another important provision might be to enable

guardians to pay the interest on debit balances with the union treasurer.

3135. Mr. Robinson.—Under any circumstances?—Subject to the approval of the Local Government Board. At present cheques have been returned in most of the unions—the Dublin union, Kildare and others.

3136. Would you be in favour of a permanent charge of say 3d. in the £ for ten years with a view to clearing off your liabilities?—No. I fear it would only place us in greater difficulties. The money given for a longer time, and at a lower rate is what would be of benefit. The evidence I have been giving is more or less conversational, but what I would like to give as my deliberate opinion is that I would propose that provision be made whereby the guardians would get a loan to pay off the relief debt, upon the same terms as money is given to purchase land, under Lord Ashbourne's Act—say at 4 per cent. for 48 years.

Mr. Spence.—In stating that I got 130 applications and report books from them I believe I fell into an error. I mistook one class of books from another. There were 80 and 4 in stock in banks. There were, indeed, some I believe which I got from Dublin's—these having failed to send them.

James Conway, Rate Collector, sworn.

Mr. James
Conway.

3137. Mr. Robinson.—You are the Collector of the Ballycroy division?—Yes.

3138. And I believe you have been some years there?—Yes.

3139. There is a sum of £17 12s. 1d. due by St. Jarlath's College trustees—what steps have you taken to collect that?—It is in the hands of the solicitor, Mr. Alfred Kelly.

3140. Patrick Gallagher.—That is waste.

3141. Major Fitz.—He is sued in the superior courts.

3142. Trustees of the Achill Mission.—That is the same; they are sued in the superior courts.

3143. When?—About a month ago.

3144. Why did you not sue them earlier?—Well, they were sued in the county court, and they paid the sum due as stated completely, and I expected to get the money afterwards, as they promised to pay every day.

3145. What is the total amount due by them?—£160, all to a shilling or two.

3146. How much have they paid altogether?—They sent a cheque for half that. I could not accept it, and I sent it to the solicitor to the Board, to take proceedings for the whole, and he says he has got a promise that they will pay soon.

3147. When was the warrant handed to you?—Early in February. In the case of the Missioners I first sent in a bill of particulars which they returned, and I submitted the case to the board of guardians, and they said they would give them some time. Then I wrote letters to the secretary, and was told they would soon be in a position to pay, but the Board thought it better to proceed in the superior courts.

3148. Charles D. Ennis, what about him?—£43 6s. 1d.—There is a writ served in this case.

3149. When was it served?—Some time in last October. He was sued in the county court for arrears, and the guardians had not the hardship to make him

pay, and they gave him time from about a month ago.

3150. Will you be able to recover it?—The matter is in the hands of Mr. Kelly, the solicitor.

3151. Richard J. Pith.—The same—the writ was served.

3152. Anthony Gallagher Jr., why did you not get that?—He promised to have it for me last Friday.

3153. James McHale.—That is a waste firm, and there were no assets. He went to America, and the "subsequent occupier" is not yet known.

3154. Is it not in the hands of the landlords?—I don't know.

3155. Who are they?—The Church Missioners.

3156. What is the total amount due to you?—About £200.

3157. Have proceedings been taken to recover every item?—Yes, except two or three.

3158. And are they all good debts?—Yes.

Mr. London.—With reference to the proceedings not being taken earlier, I may first remove any misapprehension on the point. We did, as a matter of fact, take proceedings in the county court and recovered, and then proceedings were taken in midsummer. Then we made application to the Local Government Board for authority to proceed in the superior courts—that requiring a sealed order; there was some delay about that, and the sealed order came down and then we proceeded, but we did not wait one day.

3159. What was the result of the county court proceedings?—Except in the case of St. Jarlath's, we succeeded.

3160. As to the seed rate—have you collected any of the instalments?—Yes.

3161. How much is outstanding?—£171 6s. 11d. Mr. London.—The Local Government Board wrote postponing the collection until April next.

Mr. John Spence recalled.

Mr. John
Spence.

3162. Mr. Robinson.—Has the total amount of seed rate collected been paid to the Board of Works?—Yes; the Local Government Board said, if we would pay the amount collected, the rest might be postponed till April. It is irrecoverable.

3163. Why is it irrecoverable?—Well, I have summoned these people, and they proved that they never got any seeds.

3164. The first instalment was collected from some?—Yes.

3165. How much did you recover?—About £160, I think.

3166. And how much of the amount is now outstanding?—I am prepared to swear not £10.

Examination of James Conway resumed.

Witness—
Mr. James
Conway.

3166. Mr. Rodington.—In some of these cases in which rates are due did you ever ask the guardians to proceed against the occupier in the first instance, and allow him to deduct the full amount from the landlord when paying the rent? Did you serve the thirty days' notice?—I do not understand about that.

3167. Mr. Rodington.—You have authority from the guardians to recover it in the first instance from the occupier, who may deduct it from the landlord?—Yes, when the rate would be four months' stock, but I could not collect it from these—they are all poor.

3170. Do you think they would oppose you?—I think so.

3171. But did the guardians ever consider that?—Yes.

3172. And why did they not do it?—Well, on the face of it it would look badly to proceed when they were feeding.

3173. How much did you say is due?—In or about £200.

3174. Mr. Rodington.—In your letter you say as regards the seed rate it is irrecoverable where it was distributed, it being given to people who had no land. Is that so?—The parties noted in the books had land, perhaps, for four or five years previous, and the Clerk of the Union was not able to identify whether they still had land or not, and consequently they got seed.

3175. Were none proceeded with?—Yes, and people showed that they had not the land at all.

3176. You also say it was "owing to the names of persons appearing in the books who are not in existence." Is that so?—Yes, in some cases I found that

there were people down as liable for seed whom I could not trace at all.

3177. Another reason you give is that the seed bonds were witnessed by D. Brown, the Clerk of the late Newport Union, but he being away the said bonds were not evidence?—Yes, that was so. The magistrates would not recognise the bonds when he was not present.

3178. But could you not have proceeded at another time when he was here?—Yes, but we had great difficulty in collecting it at all the first year, and the second year we could not.

3179. But if you proceeded properly the first year would it not have been easier to ascertain whether their statements were true or not than when Brown was away?—The first year there was a great strike against the payment of the seed rate at all. I had to proceed against everyone.

3180. What is the amount of poor rate due?—Mr. Agon.—£355 10s. 9d., and seed rate £171.

3181. Mr. Rodington.—I believe whatever maladministration occurred was not on the part of Westport, but Newport?—Yes.

3182. You were in court in January when the process against Mr. Pike was heard?—Yes.

3183. And it was alleged that the tenants had not paid their rent as a reason against the payment of the rates?—Yes.

3184. And did it not appear that the rent for one year was actually paid?—Yes.

3185. Mr. Rodington.—When did Mr. Brown, the Clerk of the Newport Union, leave the country?—In 1883, I believe.

3186. How many instalments of the seed rate were due before he went?—One.

Richard J. Walsh, Rate Collector, sworn.

3187. Mr. Rodington.—What is your district?—Derryloughan, Newport East and West, and Sharnmore.

3188. How much is due in Derryloughan?—£5 9s. 11d., and before a fortnight I will have done on one-half of that.

3189. Are these marked "waste" irrecoverable?—Yes.

3190. In Newport East I see there is a great deal of waste?—That is owing to Mr. Swaine, who kept large stores and mills. I had proceedings at Quarter Sessions to recover. They were all in one valuation, and the Chairman only gave me a dozen on the parts occupied. There was land and a dwellinghouse included in one assessment with the mills, and I only got a decree on the amount of the recoverable head-timber.

3191. Mr. Rodington.—That is not very clear. All that you have marked "waste" is irrecoverable?—Yes.

3192. Mr. Rodington.—That is a considerable amount?—Yes.

3193. Mary Quinn, 2s. 10d. 1.—That is a waste house.

3194. Have you calculated how much of irrecoverable rates there is in your district?—Anything marked "waste" is irrecoverable.

3195. Have you made it out?—Newport East, £28 18s. 11d., rates due—irrecoverable £4 0s. 5d.

3196. When do you expect to recover that?—In a fortnight.

3197. When you say that the waste is irrecoverable is it not a fact that they are legally exempt?—Yes.

3198. Did you institute proceedings against persons for the seed rate, before Brown went away?—Yes; he left before the second instalment was collected. Mr. Horne was the magistrate, and he, when I produced the bond, did not hesitate in giving the decree. I found out who were subsequent occupiers, and got the money.

3199. Did you then collect all the seed rate?—All, except 12s. 4d. I may mention that the bond was in each case witnessed by Mr. Brown, and the seed given out by the guardians.

3200. Mr. Rodington.—Was that so in Conway's case?—

J. Conway.—No. In my case there was a store clerk.

3201. Mr. Rodington.—In your case, Walsh, the magistrate ruled so difficulty as to the bond, as I understand?

R. Walsh.—No; but there was really no opposition—the people, so far as I was concerned, always acknowledged it due. The magistrates in Conway's case were different too. They acknowledged the debt in my case, and there was no defence; but it was not that in Conway's district.

Mr. Richard
J. Walsh

W. G. O'Malley sworn.

Mr. W. G. O'Malley.

3202. Mr. Robinson.—It has been stated that difficulties have arisen in your district in collecting the rates?—Yes; owing to the fact that occupiers under £4 pay all the poor rates—or nearly all.

3203. Are their names in the rate books?—Yes.

3204. As liable for the rates?—Yes.

3205. In the rate book who is entered as liable to pay the rates?—The occupier's names are entered up to this year, and it is suggested now to put in the landlord's name.

3206. You are speaking now of cases under £4?—Yes.

3207. Do you always apply to the occupier instead of the immediate owner?—Yes; except in cases where he paid me always through and through.

3208. If a man were under £4, and rates were due on the premises, did you apply to the occupier?—Yes; or the landlord, if he was in the habit of paying.

3209. Who would authorize you to apply to the occupier?—The guardians, and often served a thirty days' notice.

3210. But where there is an understanding between landlord and tenant that the tenant pays all rates, is it in consequence of instructions from the landlord you apply to the tenant?—Anywhere that he is "in Co." I would apply to him.

3211. Mr. Louder.—That is a system that obtains on the Marquess of Eglis's property—tenants are made tenants "in Co." so as to get the rates from them?—Yes.

3212. And when they don't pay do you distrain?—Yes; after serving the thirty days' notice.

3213. But without that?—No; I would always give thirty days' notice.

3214. Mr. Robinson.—Would you ask the guardians' authority?—I would ask the guardians to sign the thirty days' notice, and then go to the Petty Sessions Court.

Michael Flynn sworn.

Mr. Michael Flynn.

3222. Mr. Robinson.—From whom do you collect the greater portion of the rates?—The tenants.

3223. Do you collect much from the immediate owners?—About £20 last year, but not so much the year before.

3224. Are most of the tenants in Clare Island valued at and under £4?—Very few; there are tenants "in co.," and they have to pay.

3225. How much is there outstanding in your division?—I have realized every penny.

3226. Is there any *sedes-into* due by Clare Island?—£8 15s. 7d., and £7 4s. 6d. was in respect of fictitious names, and it is irrecoverable.

3227. Mr. Beaufort.—How did they get the need if the names were fictitious; was no one present at the time to see after it?—The guardians and the clerk.

3228. And did they not know the names of everyone applying?—Well, the arrangements made on the island were not in the board-room.

3229. Who was the guardian for the Island?—Mr. McHale, then; now, it is Mr. Joyce.

3230. Mr. Robinson.—(to the Clerk.)—How much is due to Mr. Larnhin for Inishurk?—

Mr. Flynn.—£61 17s. 7d.

3231. How much has been collected?

Mr. Flynn.—Nothing at all.

3232. How long has he his warrant?—Since December last.

3233. Was anything collected last year?—No; there was no *sedes-into* collected last year.

3234. How much ordinary rate?—A balance came

3215. Mr. Louder.—Is it not a matter of fact that tenants valued over £4 pay all rates on the Marquess of Eglis's property?—Yes.

3216. And on the most receipts is it not stated "tenants pay all taxes"?—Yes; I often saw it.

3217. And you have often collected rates from persons valued under £4?—Yes; hundreds of cases.

3218. Since I became Chairman, did the guardians authorize you to collect from tenants under £4?—Yes.

3219. When you became Collector first, were you in the habit of collecting from tenants under £4?—They all objected.

3220. How long is it since you became collector?—Seven years.

3221. Now, as to your collection, how does it stand?—Very well, I think.

3222. You are the largest collector in the Union?—Yes.

3223. And how much is now outstanding?—Very little; a very small trifle.

3224. Not £3?—No.

3225. Mr. Robinson.—He is a very efficient officer (to Mr. Louder). There would be no difficulty in levying the rates for ordinary expenditure?—No.

3227. Mr. Beaufort.—To meet the ordinary expenditure, 3s. 3d. would be required in Clare Island—could that be levied?—It is never easily levied there.

3228. Who is the collector there?—Flynn.

3229. Would not 3s. 3d. tax them unduly?—It is certainly high.

3230. Why is it big?

Mr. Flynn.—The pressure for relief is high; the valuation is low.

3231. Mr. Robinson.—If it was clear of debt, it would be less than 3s. 3d.?—Something less, but not much.

forward, of ordinary rate, of £39 8s. 16d., and nothing collected.

3245. What explanation did he give?—He wrote:—"I am satisfied that the greater number of these parties are well able to pay their rates, but they have, I fear, combined, up to the present, not to do so. It is impossible to distrain, and even with decrees of the County Court, there is great difficulty in realising."

3246. Who are the securities for the collector?—Mr. James Falkner, of Westport, and Henry Larnhin, his brother.

3247. Are they good securities?—Yes.

3248. Have the guardians considered the question of taking proceedings?—Yes, and on the 11th of this month they instructed their solicitor to sue the sureties, and the guardians, in their instructions to their solicitor, set forth that he never made an attempt to collect the rates.

3249. Mr. Louder.—Did not Larnhin send a statement to the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

3250. Did that go to the Local Government Board?—No, I believe not.

3251. In the statement made by Mr. Larnhin to the guardians, the week previously, did he make any assertion about a combination?—No. There was something about his writing for the "Herald."

3252. Mr. Robinson.—(to Michael Flynn).—What poundage do you get?—1s. 7d.

3253. Would you be able to undertake the collection of Inishurk?—Yes, but not for the same poundage.

Mr. J. J. Louisa recalled.

3253a. Mr. Robinson.—I presume the rates will be less when certain superintendence allowances fall in?—Well, no. The fact is, we have done all we could. We found that the charges for medicine in Newport were enormous, and something has been done in that direction, and we have the Newport Union now in good working order. The relieving officers have attended to their work, and we have cut down all sorts of expenses, and I do not really think that we could do very much more than we have done, except to abolish, perhaps, a midwife that was there; but, in truth, I do not see any way of working the Union cheaper.

Edward J. Corrigan, sworn.

3255. Mr. Robinson.—About when did Father Conway commence the giving of relief independently of the public works?—About the 4th of April, and the people were then in a starving condition, and it was done in anticipation of the Act.

3256. The people he employed were put to work on the roads?—Yes.

3257. Who gave him authority to do this?—He took it on himself.

3258. You have already stated your objections—have you anything to add to what you already said?—Well, there was a lot of abuse. Father Conway instructed me to take notice and go about the people and see about abuses, and I did so. Father Conway put men on the works for relief, and they worked as he told them.

3259. Does he expect the guardians to pay for that?—He does.

3260. Does he know there should be an Act of Parliament passed to enable that to be done?—Well, he expects an Act of Parliament, for the people were all starving.

3260a. Are you a solicitor—you say you were instructed by Father Conway?—I am not, but I watched how the thing was going, and many who had no business to get relief got it, and there was a combination on the part of the relieving officers to put on certain people just because they went to certain contractors, and I told you how Mr. Conyn, the inspector, went into Mr. Cleary's shop.

3261. Mr. Louisa.—Your evidence is very intelligible and very valuable, and the Commissioners will, no doubt, attach to it its proper value. How much was expended by Father Conway?—About £300. I may say that, to show how things were going, even Mr. Egan, the Clerk of the Union, stated that Vice-Guardians would be sent down. The Chairman, I think, has no means of detecting frauds committed by officials. In 1880 there was a doctor—a Dr. Finlay, of Ballycorry—and what was the thing that happened? Why in January, 1881, he furnished his books. I was assistant registrar, and there was—what? Why he had people entered as vaccination cases who never existed. I reported that to the Registrar-General and the Local Government Board, and Mr. Mitchell came down and inquired into the matter, and saw the books.

Mr. Louisa.—This is really passing the line of

* See Mr. Louisa's letter in Appendix D.

3254. You are able to keep the out-door relief down very considerably?—Yes; the out-door relief now is almost nil. With reference to Mr. Alexander O. Larnonde, the rate collector, we received a letter on the 17th of October, stating:—"I am in receipt of yours of the 12th, with a copy of the resolution of the Board of Guardians of the 11th inst., re the collection. It is not correct to say I have made no effort to get in the rates. I have applied now for the services of 'The Renter's' gunboat to convey me to the Island. I have seen Mr. Kelly on the subject, and he will doubtless communicate with you."*

Witnessed
Mr. J. J.
Louisa.

toleration. Mr. Finlay's case, has nothing whatever to do with the Westport Board of Guardians.

Mr. Corrigan.—Except to show that the Guardians should have their eyes open.

John F. Corrigan.—(Relieving Officer), I wish to state, gentlemen, that this is the very man whose handwriting all these cases he speaks about were down in. Dr. Finlay himself had nothing at all to say to it. Mr. Corrigan commenced it, and he was the man to blame. I have nothing to say about Father Conway except that he commenced to give out-door relief when I don't think they required it. Of course the people did become destitute, and Father Conway did all to relieve them, and the tickets were sent to small dealers through the country, but Mr. Corrigan, I would say, has no bones about it at all. It was a private charity given, and the ratepayers should have nothing to say to it.

Mr. Egan.—Something has been said about Vice-Guardians and I wish to say that I can take my oath that I never, to him or anybody else, said or intimated that Vice-Guardians would be employed here. I do not think that I ever spoke to the men.

Mr. E. J. Corrigan.—I only knew that you shook hands with me when I came in.

Mr. J. J. Louisa.—There is one observation I would like to make. We have had a good deal of unpharmaceutical and difficulty to contend with in consequence of contractors under the Poor Relief Act coming up here and demanding payment. On one occasion we were served with a writ for £300, and on another with a writ for £100. This kind of thing produces a certain dislocation of the affairs of the union, and I think it would be of the utmost advantage if, pending the collection of the rates, these sums could be paid. It would be a benefit to the public, to the guardians, and of course to the contractors.

3262. Mr. Redington.—Has any gentleman any suggestion to offer as to a change of boundaries or amalgamation?

Mr. Louisa.—We passed a resolution to the effect that we would be willing to take charge of any part of Balmislet which the Local Government Board chose to give us—that would not be injurious from the point of view of any other union.

The inquiry terminated.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 1886.

SWINFORD UNION.

The Commissioners opened the Inquiry at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Joseph P. Nasson, Solicitor, appeared for the Guardians.

Mr. P. J. B. Daly represented Ratepayers.

Mr. Patrick J. McSully, Clerk of the Union, sworn.

3253. Mr. Refington.—Kindly take this return of expenditure and grants, and tell me if it is correct?—It is. The total is £7,680 2s. 10d., expenditure; grants £3,136; excess £4,544 2s. 10d. I may say, sir, that there is some remuneration to be paid to the relieving officers under the Act (£150).

3254. Is it included in your return?—No. I myself have not been paid for my services, and some of the permanent relieving officers are to get some remuneration.

3255. Mr. Daly.—Who are to be paid as representing the union you mention £150?—The relieving officers—twenty temporary officers, and their permanent relieving officers, and myself.

3256. Mr. Refington.—Is any expenditure under the ordinary law included in that?—No.

3257. When did that expenditure begin and when did it cease?—It commenced with the Scaled Order from the Local Government Board. I think it began on the week ending on the 8th of May, and ended on the 15th of July, so far as I can remember.

3258. Take those two returns—showing the number of persons and the number of cases relieved under the Act—are those returns correct?—Yes, I had to get it prepared, and I checked it off, and it is correct.

3259. It does not entirely agree with the one sent in to the Local Government Board?—No, but this is correct. It was impossible during the distribution of relief to get the relieving officers to come in regularly. The difference is very little.

[Return certified. See Appendix A, Table I.]

3260. Mr. Robinson.—When was the relief first authorised—the exact date?—On the 11th of May.

3261. Did you not give any relief on receiving the Local Government Board letter of the 28th of April?—Yes, for the week ending the 8th of May.

3262. Then it was in that week you gave the first relief?—Yes.

3263. What was the day of the board meeting at which the relief was given?—It must have been on the 4th of May that the letter of the 28th was considered.

3264. And on that day the guardians, I presume, gave authority by resolution to the relieving officers to open works throughout their districts?—Yes.

3265. Is there a resolution on the subject?—Yes. They had a meeting before the 4th of May. There was a special meeting on the 1st of May—Saturday.

3266. What happened at that meeting?—There was a letter from the Local Government Board authorizing relief in food, and then the board selected certain roads.

3267. Are the roads mentioned in the resolution?—Yes.

3268. Did they appoint additional relieving officers on that day?—Yes.

3269. What number?—I think they appointed three that day.

3270. How did they obtain them—did they advertise for them?—No.

3271. Did they direct the relieving officers to employ them or did they appoint them?—They appointed them—Edward Hurst, temporary relieving officer, Swinford; M. Coghlan, Fenford; and Patrick McDonnell, Charlestown.

3272. Was anything else done at this meeting?—Yes.

3273. Did they give these temporary relieving officers instructions as to the work to be carried out?—Yes, and selected the roads and advertised for tenders for supplies.

3274. On that day?—Yes, and they adopted rules for the guidance of the relieving officers.

3275. They drew out these rules?—Yes.

3276. When were they adopted?—On the 4th of May. The rules were to the effect—1. That all able bodied males were to receive relief to the extent of 1s. 6d. a day for each day's work. 2. Heads of families with more than four children 2s. worth of food for each day's work, not to exceed 5s. a week. 3. No able bodied servant receiving wages to be employed. 4. No able bodied person not destitute to be employed. These were given to the permanent relieving officers and the three temporary relieving officers.

3277. Was any further order made at that time?—There was no appointment in Moran's district as relieving officer, but he was directed to employ any assistance he would need. There was an assistant appointed for the other two districts.

3278. Were the duties of the assistants defined, and were they given independent charge of one division?—Yes, of the temporary relieving officers—at least it was resolved to have one for each of the electoral divisions.

3279. Were the appointments made that day?—At the meeting of the 4th it was resolved that the salaries to be paid to the temporary relieving officers be 12s. a week.

3280. How did they obtain the services of the temporary relieving officers?—The guardian of the division proposed the person most suitable.

3281. On that day had any work been commenced?—I think some guardians may have started works at that time.

3282. Between the 28th of April and the meeting of the 4th of May was any relief given under the Relief Act?—Unless on Monday there could not be, for Tuesday was the 6th.

3283. Do I understand you to say that all the relieving officers were appointed on that day?—Not the whole twenty.

3284. How many were?—Eighteen, I think. I see there was a resolution—"That the appointment of temporary relieving officers for two divisions be postponed for a week."

3285. Were there any instructions as to the exact duties of these relieving officers?—Yes, that was further on. I know that they did give instructions.

3286. Did the temporary relieving officer discharge the entire duties of his own district without reference to the permanent officers, or were the temporary officers under the charge and direction of the permanent?—At first when three were appointed they were put to assist the permanent men, but on the Tuesday following when that proceeding was to be confirmed they thought it better to appoint relieving officers over each division.

3287. And each officer was to be solely responsible for the division to which he was appointed?—Yes.

3288. And responsible directly to the Board?—Well, more or less he was to be under the supervision of the permanent officer.

3304. How so?—Well, if they needed advice, not being so experienced, they would apply to the permanent officer.

3305. But still, as I understand, they had absolute power in their respective divisions?—Yes; at the same time, however, they were not to interfere with the ordinary duties of the permanent relieving officers in the divisions.

3306. If there was any case arising under the ordinary law the permanent officer would deal with it?—Yes.

3307. When were the books given to the relieving officers?—On Tuesday.

3308. Were you able to give application and report books to all?—Yes, with the exception of those cases in which actual appointments were not issued.

3309. When they received the books were they told they must visit the houses of the applicants?—I do not know if they were told that the first day, but I know they got a copy of the rules.

3310. But instructions were given the first day?—Yes, they were directed to open the books.

3311. Were those instructions verbal or by resolution?—I think there was a resolution of the board.

3312. Was any arrangement made by the guardians as to the supervision of the works, or to the appointment of gangers?—No, they left that in the hands of the temporary relieving officers. The guardians themselves superintended the roads to a great extent, and I think selected the parties to be gangers.

3313. Did the guardians give advice to the temporary relieving officers as to the persons to be admitted to the roads?—No, not in every case.

3314. When were the books first submitted to the guardians to be ruled?—On the 14th May, I think.

3315. Did the guardians rule all the books on that day?—No, they could not do so.

3316. The books that were not ruled, were they kept over until the following day?—I am not quite sure, except this, that I know they very seldom got through all the books on one day.

3317. When the books were ruled, did the guardians sign for relief that had been given, or that was to be given?—In some cases they were filled in the provisional column. As long as the works were open the temporary relieving officers were directed to give the parties on the works so much per day.

3318. How did they make the order for relief?—did they in ruling the books insert their initials?—Yes.

3319. They did not put the amount to be ordered into the column?—No.

3320. So it was practically provisional that was given all along?—Yes, but I may tell you that the guardians in almost every case went over the lists themselves, and I think before the relief was issued, so that they had a check.

3321. Went over what lists?—The relief lists, and then initiated the cases.

3322. On the application books?—Yes.

3323. Were the outdoor relief lists written up?—Yes, for we got as much assistance as we could.

3324. Were they written up week by week?—No, not in all cases.

3325. In some cases only?—Yes.

3326. Did the guardians make any inquiry from the relieving officers in signing the application and report books as to the nature of the cases?—In some cases they did. When they saw it appeared of by the guardians of the division they thought it unnecessary to question it.

3327. Do you know of any cases where the guardians gave directions as to the relief which was to be given for the following week?—No, for it varied, and they could not make the order one week that would apply to the next week. Sometimes they would work two days, sometimes three days, and the next week it might be stopped altogether.

3328. Who had the power to stop the works?—was it the relieving officers?—Yes, by order of the guardians.

3329. How often did the guardians sit?—On several occasions they adjourned the Board from the ordinary day, to the day between that and the next meeting, in order to rule the books.

3330. Did they sit late?—Yes, sometimes until six o'clock.

3331. Were contractors appointed for each division?—Yes, there were contractors for almost every division at first, but the guardians thought it did not work so well, and then they appointed other contractors.

3332. Had the people receiving relief authority to go to contractors outside their own division, or were they obliged to confine themselves to their own district?—As first they could not go outside their own division, but after that they allowed the people to go wherever they pleased.

3333. As a rule did the people obtain relief from the contractors in their own divisions?—Yes—but if they came into Swinford or the outlying districts they would get it there.

3334. Did you check your books from the contractors' accounts?—Yes.

3335. Did not the arrangement you describe lead to confusion in checking the books?—Well, it might, but the contractors acted well here. They gave us all the orders in their possession, and that saved us extra work.

3336. Were any orders presented to the contractors after the relief issued?—There were some parties in Killooly, who worked on the last week, and on application to the Local Government it was said these parties might still be paid if they had complied with the law.

3337. Are all the accounts closed?—Yes, except these.

3338. Are the application and report books written up?—Yes.

3339. And the relief lists?—Yes.

3340. And checked?—Yes.

3341. And balanced?—Yes.

3342. Were the application and report books written up week by week?—No.

3343. How then did they obtain the necessary information as to the persons to whom they gave relief?—We were not able to send forward the returns to the Local Government Board, on account of not having the names written up—not beyond a fortnight.

3344. They were a fortnight behind?—Yes, at least.

3345. When the relieving officers did write up the application and report books, how did they know to whom the relief was given—how in fact did they enter up the books?—In the majority of cases the relieving officers put the applications in the application and report books first, and then issued the orders. At the same time the guardians would check off the cases, but in other cases where there was great pressure the temporary relieving officers issued their orders at once.

3346. On the contractors?—Yes.

3347. The bills gave I presume, the name of each person, so much Indian meal or oatmeal. Did the block of the ticket mention the township and the person?—Yes, and then we had the corresponding numbers on these blocks and on the tickets—the same numbers were on the application books, so it was a matter of easy reference.

3348. The relieving officers had power to say who was to be put on the works and who taken off?—Not necessarily, for it was the guardians of the division, I believe, who first selected the persons.

3349. But that was outside the board room?—Yes, and inside it.

3350. So practically it was between the guardians of the division and the relieving officer that it was settled who was to be put on and who taken off?—Yes, subject to the approval of the board.

3351. But as I understand that was not obtainable

continued
Mr. Patrick J.
H. Kelly

Witnesses
Mr. Patrick J.
McNulty

until after the work was done?—In some cases it was.

3352. In any case was such approval given before the relief was given?—The guardians went through the books pretty regularly and initiated them.

3353. They initiated the provisional relief?—Yes.

3354. When did the works cease?—On the 15th of July the order expired.

3355. What is the amount due to the contractors under the relief account?—There is due £361 13s. 3d, but there are unexpended cheques, £3,975, and the Treasurers account is overdrawn £5 13s.

3356. Mr. Robinson.—In the guardians' minutes of the 6th July there is an entry about Relieving Officer Turpin?—Yes, it is "that Relieving Officer Turpin be directed to give relief to destitute persons who have worked on the relief works in his district, although not ordered to work by him, and to place them on his books in the usual way." He refused to do that I believe?—Yes.

3357. Do you know how that was?—There was a correspondence about it and he refused to put them on his books.

3358. Who put them on the works in the first instance?—They went on the works without being told, I believe.

3359. Were these men paid?—No.

3360. Have they been paid up to the present?—No.

3361. Mr. Robinson.—When did the chairman initial the application and report books?—At different times during the relief.

3362. I think you said that the guardian of the division and the relieving officer used to consider the cases?—Yes.

3363. And the chairman initialed them?—Yes, not at the same time. Sometimes we would have a Board here and each guardian would be appointed chairman to initial his own books.

3364. Then do I understand that the person whose initial is in the books was not the presiding chairman of the day?—Not in every case, I think.

3365. As a matter of fact, were there not two sets of signatures to the books?—Yes.

3366. Could you explain to me the difference between them?—Where there are two sets the guardian of the division initialed it, and afterwards the chairman.

3367. Does that mean at a subsequent meeting?—Yes.

3368. With regard to the expenditure—the number of cases and persons—the return you have given in does not agree with the parliamentary paper which was made up from the returns you furnished, in the returns you gave us to-day more correct than the parliamentary paper?—Yes, for during the progress of the relief works, owing to pressure, it was impossible to make it out quite accurately, but this is correct. It varies very little.

3369. Mr. Morrison.—I think you said the letter of the Local Government Board authorizing the relief came on the 29th of April?—Yes, that was the date of it.

3370. That would reach you on the 25th?—Yes.

3371. And I believe immediately it reached, you called an extraordinary meeting of the board by requisition?—Yes.

3372. That requisition requires two days notice?—Not in some cases.

3373. However, you got the letter on the 29th, and the meeting was held on the 1st of May?—Yes.

3374. There was only one day between the receipt of the letter and the meeting?—That is all.

3375. The next day was Sunday, and Tuesday was the ordinary board day?—Yes.

3376. So in fact only two working days elapsed between the receipt of the letter and the ordinary board day of Tuesday?—Yes.

3377. The proceedings of Saturday were to a certain extent nullified on Tuesday?—Yes—appeared of.

3378. And the distribution of the relief was not going?—Yes.

3379. Now as to the relieving officers appointed, did they at any time hold office as assistant relieving officers under the board?—Some did.

3380. Under the vice-guardians?—Yes.

3381. Now, was it the system that the guardian of the division and the relieving officer appointed under this Act by the board came together and arrived at an understanding as to the people who were fit subjects for relief?—Yes.

3382. Tickets were issued in some cases before the board could approve of the action of the guardians of the divisions?—Yes.

3383. But invariably, was not the action taken by the relieving officer and the guardian of the division brought before the board?—Yes.

3384. At the next meeting?—Not always; certainly not in every case.

3385. Well, as soon as possible?—Yes, the guardians did the very best they could.

3386. And when the cases carefully gone into and a decision came as to the necessity for the relief in the particular instance?—Yes.

3387. Now, do you know of your own knowledge that a great necessity existed for the distribution of this relief at the union?—I do indeed; I was in Belmullet in 1880, and we thought there was a great deal of distress in it, but it was nothing to what prevailed here. I had the opportunity of going about and seeing for myself—having to instruct the relieving officers, and I was eight or nine days out and in all my life I never saw more distress than I did.

3388. As a matter of fact, did you go about and instruct the relieving officers in their duties?—Yes, I found it necessary to do so.

3389. And you saw the condition of the people?—Yes.

3390. And from your experience of Belmullet and other places in other bad years did you come to the conclusion that the distress in 1886 was more prevalent?—That was the opinion I formed when I saw the poverty of the people.

3391. Were you clerk here when the relief was distributed by the vice-guardians?—No.

3392. You do not know anything of the condition of the people in the union at the time of the vice-guardians?—Not of my own knowledge.

3393. Now about this relief that was given at Killybeg, do you know how much it amounted to?—Do you mean the relief given after the works stopped?

3394. Yes?—It amounted to about £30 or £40 I understand.

3395. Can you give any reason for the exceptional distress in the union in the summer of that year?—I would not like to say, for I am not an authority. Others will be able to give you evidence upon that.

3396. Mr. Daly.—I think you said that all the temporary officers were appointed at the special meeting of the 1st of May?—Some of them were.

3397. Was the relieving officer for Bohola and Toomacagh appointed?—No, that was on the 4th of May I think—I see on the minute book the resolution that the appointments of temporary relieving officers be postponed until this day week, and he was appointed on the following Board day.

3398. Who was the guardian of that division?—Mr. William Clarke.

3399. Who was the relieving officer appointed?—John McNulty.

3400. Do you know was there any relationship between them?—No.

3401. Is he his servant now?—I do not know that he is—I never saw him before.

3402. Now who was appointed contractor for that division?—Mr. Carey.

3403. What relationship is there between Carey and Clarke?—I do not know exactly what it is.

Witnesses.
Mr. Patrick J.
McNulty.

3404. Now do you know that Carey is a cattle dealer?—I know very little about him.

3405. You don't know that?—No.

3406. You know he is not a shopkeeper?—Well, I do not.

3407. Does he keep a meat store of any kind?—I do not know.

3408. But Mr. Clarke the guardian keeps a meat store?—I do not know.

3409. Did you ever go to Gortlebar through Bohala?—Yes.

3410. Did you ever go into Clarke's house?—Which Clarke? There are two.

3411. There are two guardians, one for Bohala and one for Toocanannah?—Yes.

3412. Do they live together?—I believe so, I have been in the father's house.

3413. Is there a shop attached to it?—Yes, I saw a shop there.

3414. Were you often in the house?—About half-a-dozen times.

3415. Carey was declared contractor?—Yes.

3416. How much per stone did he charge for Indian meal?—10d. per stone for Indian meal, and 1s. 6d. for oatmeal.

3417. And for flour?—There was no contract for flour.

3418. Did he supply any?—I am not aware.

3419. What was the current price for Indian meal in Swinford last summer?—I am not aware—I am not much in the way of knowing.

3420. You do not know what were the prices of these articles last summer?—I do not.

3421. Do you know in it is fact that any of the guardians took out of these contracts and carried it out?—No guardian took a contract in his own name.

3422. I did not ask you that.—Do you know did any of the guardians carry out a contract under this Act?—I do not know.

3423. Of your own knowledge?—No.

3424. Do you recollect the 23rd of November—last Tuesday?—Yes.

3425. Do you know that on that date a guardian received £5 and more for sinking a well at Foxford?

Mr. Mawson.—Now gentlemen, do you think that this is relevant in any way to the object of the inquiry—surely it is nothing to us if a guardian got £5 for sinking a well.

Witness.—I might explain about that.

Mr. Redington.—I do not think it has anything to say to this inquiry.

3426. Mr. Dwyer.—The next thing I want to ask you is this. Do you consider that the relief was fairly distributed in this union?—Yes, I believe that.

3427. By the relieving officer appointed by the guardians?—As far as I could see—and I had the most ample opportunities of judging—every one, without exception, did his best, including the temporary relieving officers, to find out if the cases put on the works were fit and proper and deserving of relief, and further that relief was given to none but deserving cases. Of course there must be abuses in such a work, but certainly every effort was made to prevent it in this case.

3428. Was any complaint made by anyone that the relief was not given to persons most in need of it?—I heard statements to that effect.

3429. Now, before the contractors were declared were not notices posted asking people to come in and tender?—Yes, after the letter of the Local Government Board was received, the guardians made an order that notices should be posted on the chapel throughout the district to receive tenders on Tuesday following, so that the relieving officers got these notices to put up.

3430. Was that done?—I believe it was.

3431. You don't know of your own knowledge?—No, I could not know.

3432. Mr. Redington.—Did the Board pay any except the ordinary contractor?—Yes; some parties got

some orders from the relieving officers, and the guardians paid them.

3433. Then had the relieving officers power to give orders on others than the contractors?—The parties themselves went to the shopkeepers, and at the end the guardians thought the parties might be allowed to go where they would get best value. In some cases the relieving officer left the contractor's name blank, and in such cases the people would go where they liked.

3434. Did the guardians pass a resolution as to that change of system?—Yes, they said that all who supplied relief should be paid.

3435. Did they pass a resolution authorising the relieving officers to issue orders on persons other than the contractors?—At the end I think they did.

3436. And it was only after that the relieving officers issued the orders to persons who were not contractors?—Yes.

3437. Mr. Robinson.—Suppose some of those persons who presented tickets to people who were not contractors were charged higher than the contract prices, did the guardians pay it?—Well, the guardians believed that when the parties had the option of going where they would get the best value, it was not likely they would go where they would be charged higher than the contract prices.

3438. Was the amount in money mentioned on the tickets, or so much meal?—The amount of money.

3439. Mr. Redington.—You were asked about the progress of distress; when do you think it was at its height?—In June and July—the early part of July, I think.

3440. Mr. Mawson.—Can you tell me the exact date when the grant paper was exhausted?—No.

3441. Can you approximate to it?—Yes.

Mr. Robinson.—The Local Government Board gave instalments of the grant from time to time, and the 10th of August was the last.

3442. Mr. Redington.—£100 was the last sum you got?—Yes.

3443. Mr. Mawson.—I wanted to know when the amount was exhausted by the supplies?—We sent in returns to the Local Government Board, and they gave a proportion—what they thought was fair.

3444. Was the relief distributed in about the same proportion week by week?—No, it varied.

3445. Would you be able to say about what time the grant was exhausted?—About the middle of June.

3446. Now, up to that time do you think the money was fairly and honestly, and, if I may say so, rectly distributed in the matter of relief?—I believe it was.

3447. As a matter of fact, is not from the middle of June to the end of July the most distressed period of the year in the union?—Generally it is.

3448. That results from so many men in the union going to England to work?—Yes.

3449. I believe they go in large numbers to England from the place?—Yes.

3450. And do not the people at home live largely upon what is sent over to them?—Yes, I believe so.

3451. And in June and July are not the residences less than at other times?—Yes.

3452. And does not that account for the exceptional distress of that time?—Yes.

3453. Then I am right in saying that at the time the money of the Local Government Board was exhausted the distress was greatest in this union?—It was certainly great about that time.

3454. After the money you received had been exhausted?—Yes.

3455. And I may take it, therefore, that greater need existed for supplying relief after the grant was exhausted than before?—Yes.

3456. Mr. Robinson.—Did you a large attendance of local guardians during the time of the relief?—Yes.

3457. Did the chairman attend regularly?—Yes;

Switzerland
Mr. Patrick J.
McCarthy

but he was not well for portion of the time, and then some of the guardians, the deputy vice-chairmen or some other presided.

3457. Mr. Daly.—Mr. Hollington asked you a question about the tickets. Is it not a fact, that immediately after the 1st of May and for a long period—the tickets were for meal, not money?—There were no tickets for money; it was always meal.

3458. Then I misunderstood your answer—and I took it down?—The tickets were for meal.

3459. Mr. Hollington.—As I understand, the tickets were for “so much money’s worth of meal”?—Exactly.

3460. There was a letter from the Local Government Board on the 17th June?—Yes.

Peter Herken, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Mr. Peter
Herken.

3461. Mr. Robinson.—You are a Relieving Officer?—Yes.

3462. For what district?—Swinsford.

3463. In what divisions did you administer the Relief of Distress Act?—In Brackloon, Callow, Meelick, Cullinoo and Swinsford.

3464. Had you not assistants?—Yes.

3465. Did they consult you or not independently?—The first week or two they consulted with me; but when all the relieving officers were appointed they acted independently.

3466. When were the works first opened by you?—I did not open any of the works.

3467. Were no works opened at all in your district?—The temporary relieving officers opened the works.

3468. In your district then, the temporary relieving officers opened the works?—Yes.

3469. Then, practically, you had little or nothing to do with the Poor Relief Act?—No; I hardly administered any of it at all.

3470. What did you do it?—Well, there were reports to the Board that there were abuses more or less, and there were people on relief who should not be, and I then gave orders for the temporary relieving officers to fill in the tickets and that I would sign them.

3471. Tickets for the contractors?—Yes.

3472. You signed the tickets?—Yes; I used to visit the different divisions and sign the tickets for them to distribute.

3473. Had the temporary relieving officers no authority to sign the tickets?—Yes, for a while; but then I used to go over the list and sign the tickets for each division.

3474. Were you able to do that for each division?—Yes.

3475. Did you, yourself, ever receive applications from persons to be put on the works?—Yes.

3476. And did you put them on?—No; I referred them to the temporary relieving officers.

3477. What was the course of proceeding on the part of the temporary relieving officer, when he got the application?—Did he visit the homes of the people?—Oh, no.

3478. What steps then did he take to find out if the case was a proper one for relief?—Generally, he would ask the guardian of the division. I do not think any one was put on without the sanction and approval of the guardian who was acquainted with the people. The guardian and the relieving officer always went over the cases together.

3479. Why did not the relieving officer go to the homes of the people applying for relief?—He could not possibly do so—the numbers were too great, and it would have been a physical impossibility, but every effort was made to prevent abuse. The people would make application to the guardian, and the guardian if he approved of the case, would give a token to the relieving officer.

3480. Had the relieving officer authority to decline to put on a man who had been recommended by a guardian?—Yes, he had power.

3481. And on the 22nd of June, they sent down £450?—Yes.

3482. Look at the minutes of the next meeting—of the 29th?—I see that on the 4th of July there was a letter of the 1st sending down £450.

3483. But between the two dates, was not a sum of £266 sent down?—Yes.

3484. And there was £100 sent on the 10th of August?—Yes.

3485. Look at those two returns: (1.) Return showing the number of cases and persons relieved out of the workhouse, 2nd January, 1886. (2.) Return showing number of admissions to the workhouse for week ending 2nd January, 1886—see these returns correct?—They are.

3486. Do you know any case where the relieving officer did decline to put on a man who had been sanctioned by the guardian?—Yes; at least I do not know if they were recommended by the guardian, but I know that people applied to the relieving officers, they were declined to put them on.

3487. But you do not know of a case where they were recommended by the relieving officer, and where it was declined?—No.

3488. How long did they remain on the works?—Six hours a day—three days in the week.

3489. Were there gangmen employed?—Yes.

3490. Who employed them?—The temporary relieving officers.

3491. What were they paid?—The gangmen used to get 6d. a day more than the others.

3492. Were they applicants for relief?—Yes, they were, generally speaking, but of a better class.

3493. Was the 6d. a day extra given in meal or money?—Meal, just in order like everyone else.

3494. How often was the relief given?—Once a week.

3495. The tickets were issued at the end of the week by you and the temporary relieving officers?—

3496. Did the gangmen keep a list of those who worked under them?—Yes.

3497. You kept an application and report book?—Yes, one for a time—but when the temporary relieving officer was appointed he took charge of it.

3498. Did your superintendence extend over all the temporary relieving officers?—Yes; once a week I went to each division.

3499. Did they write up the application and report books to date?—In my district they did.

3500. When did they write them up?—Ready for every Board.

3501. Did they enter all the cases on provisional relief?—The way it was done was this:—Supposing it was Board day, the application and report book would be brought before the guardians to be ruled. The names would be called out by the relieving officer and guardian of the division, and if any case was considered unfit they would strike it off, and the case approved of would be ruled in the ordinary way. There was first, however, a list which the relieving officer would have. This list was considered, and the cases decided on for provisional relief.

3502. The guardians scrutinized the list before the relieving officer entered the names in his application and report book?—Yes.

3503. Were the tickets issued to any particular contractors?—At the beginning the contractors were named, but finally the names were left blank.

3504. Are you aware if in any case the people did not get the amount specified in the tickets?—No, I never heard a complaint.

3505. Did they ever get anything not specified in the tickets—tobacco, for instance?—No, not tobacco; they might get flour or groceries.

3506. Were these tickets ever signed by the guardians?—No, always by the relieving officer.

3506. What steps were taken to ascertain the chargeability of each person—how was that determined?—If there was any doubt about it, the temporary relieving officer would consult me, and I would go over it myself to ascertain the chargeability.

3507. What number in each family was employed—One out of each house.

3508. Were tickets for two weeks supply ever given at one time?—I am not aware of it.

3509. Are you aware of any case in which tickets were not presented to the contractor for some time after they were issued?—No, they were always presented at once. Sometimes they got the supply before the ticket.

3510. Did the contractors do that at their own risk?—Yes.

3511. Was the amount of meal written up in the books?—Yes, it was just a facsimile of the ticket.

3512. Who were the principal relieving officers in

your district?—Mr. Hurst was the chief temporary relieving officer.

3513. Mr. Mission.—How long are you relieving officer in this district?—Twelve or thirteen years.

3514. I suppose during that time there was a good deal of distress in the Union?—Yes.

3515. You remember the famine fever year of '40?—Yes.

3516. And the distribution of relief?—Yes.

3517. Do you believe the distress was as bad then as it was this year?—In some places it was worse this year than in '39.

3518. In your own divisions if this relief had not been distributed and continued up to the time it was given, would there have been deaths from starvation?—Yes, I believe there would decidedly.

3519. Was the procedure of the relieving officers uniform?—Yes.

Edmond Hurst, Relieving Officer, sworn.

3520. Mr. Eslington.—When were you appointed?—On Saturday, the 1st of May.

3521. What Electoral Division had you charge of?—Swinsford Electoral Division.

3522. Describe the steps you took when an application was made to you for relief under the Act?—I had a very good knowledge of the division and of the condition of the people, so that in half the applications I did not need to go to their houses. Indeed if I had wished to do so I could not owing to the pressure of business. In some cases, of course, I did visit the houses as I passed along, but as a general rule I did not.

3523. As soon as you got the application for relief did you consult with the guardian of the division?—In some cases.

3524. Were there any cases in which you did not?—Yes, a great many.

3525. Did you receive the instructions of the guardian?—Yes, when I consulted him.

3526. Did you ever act contrary to his instructions?—Yes, because I used my own discretion.

3527. But when you consulted the guardian and he recommended the case, did you ever not adopt the case?—I generally adopted the case.

3528. Did the guardian instruct you as to the duration of the relief?—As to the time it was to continue?

3529. Yes?—No, he did not.

3530. When you put a man on the works how long did you leave him on?—If it was a bad case I would leave him on to the end of the relief.

3531. So it was in accordance with the circumstances of the people?—Yes.

3532. If you did not personally visit the houses how could you ascertain the depth of the destitution of the applicants?—I made inquiries of their neighbours—people in good circumstances, and on whom I could rely.

3533. And the information you received was generally pretty accurate?—Yes.

3534. Is the evidence of Mr. Hurst as to the way in which relief was given out correct?—Yes, I believe so.

3535. When did you write up your application and report book?—Every week.

3536. In writing them up was it from the list?—Yes, I generally entered them from the orders for relief. I posted them up in that way.

3537. At the end of the week?—Yes.

3538. What day did you give the relief?—Sometimes on Thursday and Friday.

3539. And you wrote up the book between that and the following Tuesday?—Yes.

3540. When you gave the relief did you give enough to last till Tuesday?—Sometimes not.

3541. Were you ever temporary relieving officer before?—Yes, in 1850.

3542. You understood writing up the books?—Yes.

3543. Was the relief given all provisions?—I might not have marked them, but in most cases it was intended to have the relief continued.

3544. Did you think you had power to grant provisional relief?—Yes, for a week.

3545. What course did the guardians take?—If they thought it a bad case they continued it on.

3546. How did you know they intended to continue it on? They did not put it down in the book?—No, as a rule it was not done.

3547. Do you know why?—No.

3548. They merely put their initials approving of the relief?—Yes.

3549. And what did you interpret that to mean?—We got orders generally issued to continue the relief to those we considered in distress.

3550. Those were verbal orders?—Yes.

3551. Then the guardians left the disposition of the following week to you?—Yes.

3552. Mr. Robinson.—Did the guardians order so many days' work to be done?—Yes.

3553. When you laid the book before them you showed them what had been done up to the present?—Yes.

3554. Did you get orders as to what was to follow?—They said to continue relief to all destitute cases.

3555. Those were verbal instructions?—Yes.

3556. How did you select the gangers?—Generally took them from the works—men who were able to read and write.

3557. To the best of your knowledge did the people get value for their tickets?—Yes, I believe so.

3558. Did they ever get anything but what was on the ticket?—No. There might be some leeway about it, but I believe they generally got meal and flour.

3559. Did you ever give two weeks supply at a time?—No, never.

3560. When you brought up your application and report book did you submit it to the local guardian or the Board?—Generally the local guardian initiated the book.

3561. He would act as Chairman?—Not always.

3562. How often did you attend the Board?—Continually to the end.

3563. Were any tickets signed by anyone but you and the permanent relieving officer?—None.

3564. Do you know of any tickets that remained outstanding—after they were issued—that were not presented?—No.

3565. What was the nature of the works you carried out?—Generally the repairs of roads.

3566. Were they always likely to be of a permanent

SWINSFORD.
Mr. FINE
HURST.

Mr. Edmond
Hurst.

Witness
Mr Edward
Hartley

sent character, and of value 1—Yes, in some cases. Indeed I may say in most cases. Old roads were metalled; some were made in '48 and the like, and they were repaired.

3577. Did you administer the relief under the ordinary Act 1—No.

3578. That was left in the hands of the permanent relieving officer 1—Yes.

3579. Mr. Rodington.—There is a case here marked "off"—a case of Thomas Greenlee. It is marked "off," but then I see he comes on again 1—Yes—there were a good many on at the first Board meeting, but who were struck off, and afterwards may be they would be put on.

3580. When was the distress at its height 1—In the middle of June or July.

3581. Mr. Mawson.—Is that always so—that there is greatest distress about that time 1—Yes.

3582. Now, one of the Commissioners asked you as to whether you would follow the suggestion of the guardian, and I think you said you exercised your discretion.—If the guardian recommended a case which you considered to be not a fit case for relief would you refuse to give it 1—Yes.

3583. In fact you did not feel yourself bound to do just what the guardian told you 1—Not exactly.

3584. As far as possible you exercised your own discretion 1—Yes.

3585. You made the best examination of each case that you could 1—Yes.

3586. And when necessary you consulted the guardian 1—Yes.

3587. Was it the custom to give instructions that a certain number of days' work be done during the week 1—Well, as a general rule three days' work was given.

3588. And if the name was retained on the list you considered it to be for three days 1—Yes.

3589. You live in Swinford 1—Yes.

3590. And you were a relieving officer in 1880 1—Yes.

3591. There was great distress in the union then 1—Yes.

3592. The vice-guardians were here 1—Yes.

3593. And under them the relief was distributed 1—Yes.

3594. Was the distress in this part year as great as in 1880 1—Yes, I believe it was fully as great in some parts of this division, and more so.

3595. Would you be able to say if the relief was not given there would have been deaths from starvation 1—I believe a great many cases of death would have occurred.

3596. Mr. Rodington.—I suppose you took care that only destitute persons were put on the works 1—Yes, and that none who were destitute were refused relief.

3597. I see that for the week ending 8th of May there were 2,345 persons receiving relief, and in the subsequent week ending 15th of May there were only 245. Were those relieved the first week I have mentioned destitute 1—Yes.

3598. What then became of all except 245 1—There was some order or another I cannot recollect, but I knew there was a great drop off.

3599. I thought you put on every one you considered destitute 1—Yes.

3600. And you considered only 245 destitute on the week ending 15th of May 1—Yes, and more.

3601. Why did you not put them on 1—Because relief was not distributed to them.

3602. Why not 1—There was some kind of an order or other during that second week.

3603. What was it 1—I cannot remember.

3604. Was it not your duty to relieve the destitute 1—Yes.

3605. Am I to understand then that there were more than 245 persons destitute in your district in that second week 1—No doubt.

3606. Well what became of the remainder 1—I

know the number was not as great the second week as the week you speak of.

3607. You admit however that there were numbers of destitute persons in the week ending 15th of May, to whom you did not give relief 1—Well, none that would be likely to die of distress.

3608. Well, were they in a position deserving of relief 1—Yes.

3609. You said the distress was at its height in the middle of June or July 1—Yes, I think so.

3610. How is it then that during the week ending 22nd of May there were 2,436 persons in receipt of relief and in the week ending the 18th of June, 1,869 1—At that season of the year a great many people go away to England. That might account for it.

3611. Then in the middle of June the pressure was not so great 1—I think it was.

3612. Mr. Mawson.—But there were less people to be relieved 1—There was great pressure in the middle of June.

3613. Mr. Rodington.—Why then did you relieve less 1—Perhaps there were less people in the country. They generally go to England at that season of the year.

3614. Well, on the 26th of June I find there were 2,591. How is that—did they all come back during the week 1—No, they do not often come back so soon.

3615. How do you account for that then, that the figures go up 1—I cannot rightly say. From time to time there were people making fresh applications until the end of the relief.

3616. But is it your opinion that the whole 2,591 required relief that week, and only 1,869 the week before 1—It is quite possible.

3617. And yet you say the number of people in your district had diminished by the people going to England 1—Yes, there is a certain season when they go.

3618. You say the distress continued until the middle of July. How do you account for the fact that you had 2,590 cases on the 3rd of July, and only 761 on the 10th of July—that is a great drop. Are you sure you relieved all the destitute 1—I believe so, of course there may have been cases, but none in which danger arose.

3619. But there were cases which were not on the book and who were fit subjects for relief 1—Possibly.

3620. How is that 1—Possibly, I could not attend to it.

3621. What division had you 1—This division.

3622. Well, can you account for the fact that on the 3rd of July there were 2,590 receiving relief, and only 761 on the 10th. I want to know whether there were people who sought to have received relief during the second week and who did not. Have you any explanation to offer 1—No, I have not.

3623. Mr. Mawson.—Mr. Rodington wishes you to explain the sudden decrease from 2,590 and odd to 769; it certainly seems strange 1—Well, the second week I remember there was a falling off.

3624. That is clear. But why was it? Was it by reason of an order of the guardians 1—To the best of my belief it was.

3625. Mr. Rodington.—There are other discrepancies. Did you inquire into every case as far as you could 1—Yes, as far as possible, I did.

3626. Were cases struck off when the book was brought before the Board 1—Yes, such cases as we thought could do without relief for a week or two.

3627. Would they be destitute one week, and not so very destitute the next week as to require relief 1—Yes, if you relieved them one week you might leave them off the next.

3628. Mr. Mawson.—Was the relief administered as economically as possible in that way 1—Yes.

3629. And would that account for the discrepancies in the figures 1—Yes.

3619. Do not the people depend very greatly on remittances which they receive from England?—Yes.

3620. And would that make a difference?—Yes; if I got to know of remittances coming I would not get on such cases.

3621. Mr. Redington.—The first and second week of May was much money sent from England?—No.

3622. How much would you give a family for a week's relief?—Somewhere 4s., 5s., 3s. 6d., and sometimes 2s. 6d.

3623. How much would you give if the family consisted of a husband, wife, and three children?—About 4s. 6d.

3624. And would that support them for two weeks?—It might and it might not.

3625. I understood you to explain that they might receive relief one week—being destitute—and that it might be withheld the following week, and I was anxious to know why they would be less in need of it

the following week?—I had knowledge of the people myself.

3626. You can give no other explanation?—No.

3627. Mr. Macintyre.—I presume 4s. 6d. to that family, in addition to what they might have otherwise, might make a great difference in their circumstances?—It would.

3628. Mr. Redington.—Do you think they would be destitute if they had sufficient under the 4s. 6d. to keep them alive for the fortnight—if they had other means would you consider them destitute?—They might be destitute so far as this, that if they did not get the relief they could not live on what they had, but getting it they might pull on for a fortnight.

3629. But if they had means you would not give them relief?—No.

3630. Mr. Daly.—Who was the contractor for this division?—Edward Dolphin.

Witnesses.
Mr. Edward
Dolphin.

John Moran, Relieving Officer, sworn.

3631. Mr. Robinson.—For what divisions were you relieving officer during the administration of the Act?—Five—Ballinacorney, Bohola, Killybeg, Killynaghy, and Woodmacagh. I have also the divisions of Aughmacree, Co. Louth, and Killybeg.

3632. Were assistant relieving officers appointed in these divisions?—Yes, in each.

3633. Did you exercise supervision over them?—Yes, as far as I possibly could.

3634. Were you instructed to do so by the Board?—Yes, as far as I could.

3635. What was the nature of the supervision?—To visit each division once a week and sign the tickets.

3636. Were you consulted about the persons to be put on?—Yes.

3637. In your own immediate district?—Yes.

3638. I suppose your procedure was very much the same as that of relieving officer Hocken?—Yes.

3639. Mr. Redington.—Killybeg is in your division?—Yes; Maragh was appointed temporary relieving officer there.

3640. Had you anything to say to it?—No.

3641. And general supervision?—No, in that case it was entirely under the charge of the temporary relieving officer.

3642. I find there is no relief given there in the first week?—No; that was owing to the temporary relieving officer not having been appointed for the division.

3643. Did you look after the destitute in that division at that time?—Yes, in the ordinary way.

3644. And you were able to relieve them under the ordinary law?—Yes. There were none relieved at that time under the Poor Relief Act.

3645. Why did you not put into force the provisions of the Act?—Owing to the distance from Killybeg to Killybeg, and the guardian of the division was from home.

3646. Was no relieving officer appointed?—Not the first week.

3647. How did the people in distress get relief?—did you look after them?—I did.

3648. Was there an increase in that ordinary outdoor relief?—Yes.

3649. And did that meet the distress quite satisfactorily?—No.

3650. There were destitute people there then who did not get relief?—Yes.

3651. Mr. Robinson.—Was there any suffering there owing to the want of a relieving officer?—I am sure there were a good many requiring relief.

3652. Did you write up your application and report book?—No.

3653. Mr. Redington.—Did you report to the Board the circumstances connected with Killybeg?—Yes. I may state that Maragh was appointed

relieving officer at the first meeting of the Board, but he did not take the appointment—he resigned and would not accept it.

3654. Mr. Robinson.—Nearly all your time I presume was taken up in your own district, Killybeg?—Yes.

3655. And during that period you had little or no time to devote to Killybeg?—Yes.

3656. As soon as possible after Maragh declined, did the guardians appoint a temporary relieving officer?—Yes, Maragh was appointed.

3657. Do you believe that in consequence of your attention being necessarily taken up at Killybeg, and Maragh refusing to act, that destitution prevailed at Killybeg that was not relieved?—Yes.

3658. And suffering?—Yes.

3659. And this at a time that relief was being distributed in the other divisions?—Yes.

3660. And as far as you know was it distributed fairly?—Yes.

3661. Do you believe there would have been deaths amongst the people in these divisions if the relief was not continued?—I do.

3662. You were relieving officer in 1880?—Yes.

3663. Contrasting last year with 1880, would you say that the distress was greater last year?—Yes, it was greater I think.

3664. Mr. Redington.—Did you report to the Board of Guardians the sufferings that existed in consequence of the absence of the relieving officer?—I think I did.

3665. Could you let me have that report?—I cannot, but I am sure I let them know of it.

3666. Mr. Robinson.—In fact, the guardians were aware of the destitution that existed?—Perfectly.

3667. And they had previously appointed a temporary relieving officer who was to cope with that distress?—Yes.

3668. And you wrote to tell them that he was not acting, and I presume you considered that fact was sufficient to indicate that distress existed and was not being attended to?—Yes.

3669. Did the temporary relieving officers make inquiries at the residences of the people, as to the extent of the distress?—They did in some cases, and they consulted the guardian of the division in most cases.

3670. In the majority of cases did they visit the houses?—No.

3671. Why?—Owing to the pressure of the applicants it was impossible.

3672. Mr. Daly.—Who is the guardian for Bohola?—Mr. Patrick Clarke.

3673. And for Woodmacagh?—Mr. William Clarke.

3674. Are they brothers?—Yes.

3675. And they reside together?—Yes.

Mr. John
Moran.

WATERFORD

Mr. John
Meehan.

3676. At Bohola?—Yes.

3677. Are they shopkeepers?—No, they are not shopkeepers.

3678. Does their father keep a shop?—Yes.

3679. It is a family house where they reside, and carry on their business, and help their father?—I don't know.

3680. Who was the relieving officer appointed, the temporary relieving officer?—John O'Connor, for Bohola.

3681. And for Kiltineagh?—M'Nulty.

3682. What relationship is there between M'Nulty and Clarke?—I cannot say.

3683. Is he his servant?—I cannot say.

3684. Do you know what kind of work was done through the district?—Roads were repaired.

3685. Were there many?—A good many in each of the divisions.

3686. Do you know if they worked for Clarke?—No, I never heard it.

3687. Or out down his corn?—No, I never heard.

3688. Do you know what prices they were charged for meal and flour by the contractor?—I don't know.

3689. Who was the contractor?—Curry.

3690. What was he to Clarke?—There is some relation, I suppose.

3691. What is it?—Is he his uncle?—Yes.

3692. Now, was the flour and meal supplied by Clarke?—I am not aware.

3693. I believe that, so far as Bohola is concerned, you merely went there by appointment on a certain day, and signed the tickets?—Yes.

3694. Whatever tickets those temporary relieving officers presented to you, you signed?—Yes.

3695. Without inquiry?—Yes; I made inquiries of the temporary relieving officers, and they were bound not to submit any but proper ones.

3696. How far is Bohola from Kiltineagh?—Three miles.

3697. How do you know of your own knowledge if the relief was fairly administered?—From the experience I had of the country.

3698. From information from the assistants?—Yes, and my experience of the country.

3699. Did you ever go to any of their houses?—Yes.

3700. Those who worked under the Relief of Dis-

tress Act?—Not on that occasion exactly, but at other times.

3701. How did you acquire the information that they were in distress at all?—I know the district perfectly.

3702. Then you speak from your general knowledge?—Yes.

3703. Tell me, did any of the people from Bohola go up to you to complain of the way M'Nulty was administering the relief?—I am not aware of any persons going to make such complaints.

3704. Do you know did any one go to you to make a complaint of the way in which Relieving Officers O'Connor and M'Nulty were administering relief?—I do not remember.

3705. Do you swear that no one went to you at all to complain?—I do not remember distinctly anybody coming up to make a complaint.

3706. You don't "distinctly" remember; will you swear they did not?—No.

3707. Mr. Robinson.—How many temporary relieving officers were in your district?—Eight.

3708. Where was the greatest distress?—Outside of Kiltineagh; I should say in Kiltobilly.

3709. Mr. Manning.—Do you know Pat Clarke's farm at Tootinagh?—Yes.

3710. Do you know the road there where the men worked?—Yes.

3711. Was that road for the accommodation of the people?—Yes.

3712. How many people would you say it accommodates?—300 or 400.

3713. Is it a way to the bog for them?—Yes, and a passage to the chapel.

3714. Do you know any work more necessary than that?—It was very necessary and useful.

3715. Mr. Daly.—This road is of great use to the people going to this bog?—Yes.

3716. And a great accommodation to Mr. Clarke's holding?—Yes, it may be an accommodation.

3717. Do you happen to know the amount of money spent on that road?—No, I could not estimate it.

3718. Mr. Manning.—Do you consider that if a road would accommodate materially 300 or 400 persons it would be a sufficient reason against making it that it also accommodated the guardians?—No, I do not.

JOSEPH WALSH, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Mr. James
Walsh.

3719. Mr. Robinson.—In what district did you act as Relieving Officer?—Coolshaha.

3720. What steps did you take to ascertain the destination or otherwise of the applicants for relief?—By making inquiries of the neighbours and getting recommendations from the guardians.

3721. Did you get a recommendation from the guardian in every case?—No.

3722. In cases where you did not get a recommendation did you make inquiries?—Yes, from the neighbours.

3723. Were you able to visit the homes of the applicants?—No.

3724. Why not?—I should have to superintend nine or ten roads every day.

3725. Yourself?—Yes.

3726. Had you not gangers?—Yes.

3727. Did you appoint them?—Yes.

3728. Did the guardians of the division ever instruct you to give relief when you refused?—No.

3729. Did you feel yourself bound to abide by the decision of the guardians?—Yes.

3730. Did you fill in the tickets?—Yes.

3731. After how much work did you fill in the tickets?—After three days' work—three alternate days.

3732. How much was that?—Three shillings.

3733. One shilling a day; was that rule made by the guardians?—Yes.

3734. Did you vary it in any way?—Yes, when I got instructions from the guardian.

3735. Did you always accept his instructions?—Yes.

3736. Did you vary the amount in accordance with the number in family?—Yes.

3737. Where did you get that information?—From the men himself.

3738. If he had ten children you would give him more than if he had only two?—Yes.

3739. Were those tickets issued by you addressed to any contractor?—Yes.

3740. To any particular contractor?—Yes.

3741. In all cases from the beginning to the end?—Yes.

3742. The persons in your district—did they obtain relief in any districts outside?—No, only from the contractor appointed by the Board.

3743. Your division was Kiltineagh?—Yes.

3744. What was the nature of the work carried out in your district?—The repair of old roads.

3745. You had one ganger for each road?—Yes.

3746. What was the pay to each ganger?—Sixpence a day over the ordinary man.

3747. In money?—No, meal.

3748. Always in tickets for relief?—Yes.

3749. Did you ever fill in two weeks' tickets at a time?—No.

3750. Do you know of any case where persons did

not present the tickets till some time after they were issued?—No.

3751. Do you know did they ever get any article besides meat?—Yes, flour and sugar.

3752. Did you ever hear of their getting anything else?—No.

3753. Did you refuse many persons relief?—Yes, some that I heard were not really destitute.

3754. You can't say what percentage of the applicants you refused?—No.

3755. When you appointed a work did the people wait till you gave them instructions to go on it?—Yes.

3756. Did you give any ticket to a man to go on the works, or did you give the word to the gangster?—I gave word to the gangster.

3757. Could any person have gone on the works without authority from you?—Yes, if they got instructions from the gangster.

3758. Then the gangster had power to put men on the roads?—Yes.

3759. And then I presume you put them on your book?—Yes.

3760. Why did the gangster give instructions to people to go on the works?—Because he believed them to be destitute.

3761. In the majority of cases did the gangster put the men on the roads, or recommend them to you?—Recommended them to me usually.

3762. Why did he deviate from that in any cases?—I do not know.

3763. If a gangster put a man on the works did you inquire as to his destination?—Yes.

3764. Was there any case where the gangster put a man on the works and you inquired and found he was not destitute?—No.

3765. If you had found in any such case that the man was not destitute would you have put him off?—Yes.

3766. Did you put many men on without consulting the gangster?—No.

3767. Were your instructions to consult the gangster?—Yes.

3768. And did you follow them out fully?—Yes.

3769. From the commencement to the end of the week?—Yes.

3770. Did many people obtain relief to whom the labour test was not applied?—Yes, they did.

3771. Under what circumstances?—They were not able to work.

3772. But they were not persons who could be relieved under the ordinary law?—No.

3773. Were they holders of land?—Some had no land at all.

3774. Did you write up your application and report book?—Yes.

3775. How often?—I used to prepare them for the Board every Tuesday.

3776. What did you write them from?—The blocks of the tickets.

3777. On these blocks did you fill in the name of the township?—Yes.

3778. What steps did you take to ascertain the chargeability in every case?—I used to make inquiries.

3779. Were you given much assistance by the permanent relieving officer?—Yes.

3780. Did he put any people on the works himself?—No, I do not think so.

3781. Mr. Redington.—Is this book a copy or the original?—A copy.

3782. Are the entries arranged in the same order as in the original application and report book?—Yes.

3783. How is it a man who applied in July is put down before a man who applied in May?—I can't explain that.

Mr. Morrison.—The copy may be wrong.

3784. Mr. Redington.—Did you make this copy yourself?—No.

Witnesses.
Mr. James
Wicks.

Mr. P. J. McNulty, recalled.

3785. Mr. Redington.—Are these names in the same order as in the original?—No, I think not.

3786. Are they rearranged alphabetically?—Yes.

3787. According to townlands and alphabetically?—Yes.

3788. Then these signatures were made long after the relief was given?—Yes.

3789. Who is the officer in charge of Brackloon Electoral Division?—Thomas Horan.

Mr. P. J.
McNulty.

Thomas Horan, Relieving Officer, sworn.

3790. Mr. Redington.—You had charge of the Brackloon Electoral Division?—Yes.

3791. There is a matter that requires some explanation—namely, why it was that in your division the relief fell off between the 19th and 26th of June, from 1,498 to 28. How was that?—It was owing to the death of a relative of mine—and the relief was discontinued.

3792. The death of a relative of yours caused the relief to be discontinued?—Yes, I could not attend.

3793. Were there 1,498 persons on the 19th June receiving relief?—Yes.

3794. And only 28 on the 26th of June?—Yes.

3795. How could the death of a relative have caused that falling off?—Owing to the funeral—I could not attend the relief.

3796. Do you swear that there were destitute people to be relieved whom you could not attend owing to the funeral of your relative?—Yes.

3797. Did any one else look after them?—No.

3798. You were a temporary relieving officer?—Yes.

3799. Did you report this to the permanent relieving officer?—Yes, and he said I could not avoid it.

3800. But I do not quite understand what became of the rest of the people. What became of the 1,470 people who were destitute on the 19th, and were presumably so on the following week?—I cannot say, they were not in a very bad state of destitution.

3801. But were they not on the first week?—Well, so they are now, for that matter.

Peter Horan.—I told to the contractors at the time to give the men relief if they were destitute, and I believe relief was given, though without tickets, he being away.

3802. Mr. Redington (to witness).—But then there is a sudden increase next week to 2,265, and then on the 10th July it falls to 477. How was that?—Times were improving, and a good many who were not considered entitled to be on were taken off; money was coming in from England too. In my division the distress was worse in June than July.

3803. You can only speak of your own?—Yes, and for Swinford.

3804. From the 3rd to the 10th July there was an improvement in your division?—Yes, as to money coming from England.

Mr. Thomas
Horan.

Anthony Turley, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Examination.
—
Mr. Anthony
Turley.

3803. Mr. Robinson.—What divisions have you charge of?—Six divisions.

3806. What are they?—Coomanure, Doonard, Killebegh, Kilsaree, Sounagh, and Urrilar.

3807. Where do you reside?—At Charlestown.

3808. Were you relieving officer in 1878, 1879, and 1880 under the vice-guardians?—Yes.

3809. How many temporary officers were appointed to assist you?—One in each division.

3810. What amount of supervision did you exercise?—I gave full instructions according to the orders from the board which were written out, and I enforced them as far as I could; I urged every means in my power.

3811. Did you travel throughout the district?—Yes, I took care and drove round and saw all the work.

3812. Were you consulted as to the persons to be put on the relief?—I gave them instructions to take on none but those who were in distress.

3813. Did they discharge their duties independently of you?—I think they went very much on their own responsibility as it were, notwithstanding my orders, but still I think they did their best to go by my directions.

3814. Did you issue tickets or did they?—I did not issue tickets at all, there were no tickets further than orders for work done, and I went around to the relieving officers and signed their tickets. The pressure was tremendously great entirely.

3815. Had the relieving officers power to issue tickets independently of you?—As the commencement, yes they had, but afterwards seeing things would not be done to their satisfaction and wish, they thought the tickets should be signed by the permanent relieving officer.

3816. And then you signed all the tickets?—Yes.

3817. Did you sign these tickets to be presented to any particular contractor?—Always on a certain contractor.

3818. Were any tickets in your district presented by the people to contractors outside your district?—No, for the persons to be relieved in my district I signed for the contractor in that district.

3819. Would these tickets be honoured by contractors outside that district?—No.

3820. You did not leave the contractor's name blank?—No, the way it was, was this, I only signed my name—they had it ready prepared for me.

3821. But you would see what you signed?—Oh, yes.

3822. And were the contractors satisfied on the tickets—any particular contractor?—There were so many contractors that I had to stand at the window at Killebegh and call out where they would like to go to, and put it down.

3823. Did you hear the evidence of the last relieving officer?—No, except the latter part.

3824. Did the local guardian advise the relieving officer as to the people to be put on in your district?—I heard something about their advising them.

3825. Are you aware that any guardians placed persons on the works themselves in your district?—From information received I say no; but they gave directions to the temporary relieving officers to put on a certain class of men. They took a great deal of their instructions—nearly all the temporary men—from the guardians, I know that.

3826. Was there great pressure for relief in your district?—My district is one of the poorest in the County Mayo.

3827. Do you think the relieving officers made inquiries at the houses of the applicants?—The pressure was so great, perhaps they had not time, but they did their best by my instructions.

3828. Do you know, as a matter of fact, of any case in which they visited the houses of the people?—I can only say that my instructions were to do so, and they told me they carried them out.

3829. Do you know if they carried out your instructions?—Yes, as far as they could, and I was very well satisfied with my officers.

3830. How could they ascertain the condition of destitution of the people without visiting their houses?—I have myself a great knowledge of the condition of the people, and I was very much amongst the officers, and I think I am pretty safe in saying that they carried out the instructions they got as well as possible, I was continually amongst them, and looked after them.

3831. You yourself could not make personal inquiries?—No, it would have been impossible.

3831A. Owing to the pressure of applications for relief?—Yes, I was at it day and night.

3832. Did you write up the application and report books?—No, I had too much to do.

3833. The application and report books are kept by the temporary officers?—Yes.

3834. Were the weekly relief lists written by them?—Yes.

3835. Every week?—Yes, I believe they did, but I really had not time to examine those things, but they came in each week.

3836. How often did you attend the Board?—Every week.

3837. Did you place the books before the guardians, or did the temporary officers?—The temporary relieving officers.

3838. Were you consulted by the guardians as to any cases?—The whole thing was thrown on my hands.

3839. Did the guardians consult you or the temporary officers as to the nature of the relief?—I have no recollection.

3840. Mr. Redington.—You reside in Charlestown, I think you said?—Yes.

3841. Do you know the division of Urkour?—Yes.

3842. Do you know of anything that can explain the diminishing of the relief in the middle of May from 1,170 to six?—Well, they were very liberal about giving relief until they saw that the funds were wearing out, and then we lowered it. Then there was a great deal of emigration. Seeing the funds going the relief was lowered.

3843. But you never refused relief to the destitute?—No, I was very particular about it.

3844. Then I may take it that in the week when only six were relieved only six needed it—I really cannot say myself, for it lay with the temporary relieving officers.

3845. But can you suggest anything to explain or justify the sudden fall from 1,170 to six?—Perhaps they were omitted when they ought to have been relieved.

3846. But I thought from what you said that that at least would be impossible. Can you give no explanation of it?—No.

3847. Mr. Robinson.—What relieving officer in your district gave most relief?—Mr. Mulrooney.

3848. Mr. Munnell.—There was great distress in your division?—Yes.

3849. And do you believe that if this relief had not been given people would have died?—Yes, I do say at least that they would have suffered very much. I can't say as to dying.

3850. You said, I think, that in Killebegh there were a great many contractors?—Yes, and in other divisions.

3851. How many in each?—Perhaps four or five.

3852. There was nothing in the nature of a monopoly—nothing in the way of one man having all the contracts?—No.

3853. And, as I understand, you put into the blank ticket the name which the applicant desired?—Yes.

3854. And therefore they went wherever they chose?—Exactly.

Patrick Maloney, Relieving Officer, sworn.

3855. Mr. Robinson.—Where did you act as relieving officer?—At Kilbegg.

3856. What steps did you take to ascertain the destination of the persons you put on the works?—I went to the houses of some of them and made full inquiries.

3857. In cases where you did not go to their houses what did you do?—I inquired of neighbours and others who knew them well, and when the persons came to apply for relief I would inquire of them and take the numbers in family.

3858. When the person applied for relief did you apply to the local guardians?—No.

3859. Not in any case?—In some cases I did.

3860. Were there any cases in which persons were put on the works by any one but yourself?—Well, some went on themselves, but were not paid or acknowledged.

3861. Did you write up the tickets for the persons to receive relief?—Yes.

3862. Yourself?—Yes.

3863. Were they addressed to any particular contractor?—No; there were contractors declared, and I gave to them in equal number.

3864. Did you give much relief to persons who did no work?—Not a great deal.

3865. When did you write up your application and report books?—Once a week.

3866. You submitted them to the guardians at the following meeting?—Yes.

3867. They were read by the guardians here—did they approve of the work you had done?—Yes.

3868. Did they give instructions about the work to follow?—Yes.

3869. Verbally?—Yes.

3870. How did you recollect these instructions?—I was here every Board day.

3871. How could you recollect particular instructions in each case?—Those cases ruled were kept on.

3872. And did you make fresh inquiries?—Yes, all through, I took every opportunity of inquiring.

3873. Was the pressure very great?—Yes, very—all through.

3874. What was the nature of the works carried out?—Repairing roads.

3875. Did you ever give two weeks' relief tickets at the same time?—I am not aware.

Swearman

Mr. Patrick Maloney.

Relieving Officer Farney recalled.

3876. Mr. Robinson.—There was a resolution passed to the effect—"That Relieving Officer Farney be directed to give relief to the destitute parties who have worked on the works in his district though not ordered to work by him, and to replace them on same." How many cases did you then put on?—Eight about. There were doubtful cases and cases which I knew the auditor would question if they were put on. However these people went to work without my consent, and then came here to the Board to put in their claims, and the guardians ordered me to take on all those names on my books.

3877. Did you do that?—Yes, I thought I would have to obey them, by that resolution I put on eight. There was a great pressure of business. I was brought before the Board of Guardians, and there was an order of the Local Government Board saying that the auditor would question these things, and that they were not to be paid as they did not go to work by my directions, and if they were paid it would be surcharged by the auditor. There were eight put on, but not the rest.

Mr. Farney.

John Waldron, Relieving Officer, sworn.

3878. Mr. Robinson.—Did you give relief to a woman named Mary Waldron?—Yes.

3879. I see 4s. 6d. appears to have been given to her previously. It was initiated by some one "J.G." and approved of by the chairman, and yet it is rubbed out subsequently.

3880. Do you recollect it?—Not perfectly.

3881. Did you give that relief?—I am sure I did.

3882. How comes it to have been rubbed out in the book?—I cannot recollect that.

Mr. John Waldron.

Mr. P. J. McWally (Clerk), recalled.

3883. Mr. Robinson.—Do you recollect this case of Mary Waldron?—It would appear, so, that no ticket was issued in her case.

3884. But there is an order here for 4s. 6d. for the week ending 26th May, and initialed by "J.G." I presume that money was paid?—It appears not.

Mr. Monahan.—The probable explanation is that the ticket was issued, and the relief given as the officer says it was, and that the contractor has lost the ticket.

Mr. P. J. McWally.

William Carey sworn.

3885. Mr. Robinson.—You were a contractor for out-door relief during the administration of the Poor Relief Act?—Yes.

3886. In what division?—Bokola and Tocan-anagh.

3887. What was the relief?—Oatmeal and yellow meal.

3888. Did the people ever apply for anything else?—No.

3889. When did they generally present you with their tickets?—During June and July.

3890. I mean was it at the end of the week they generally came to you with the tickets?—I gave the order to Delphin for the meal, and I signed the cheques for him to get payment for them, and I ordered

my brother-in-law to supply the meal. I myself was on and off to England.

3891. Who is your brother-in-law?—Patrick Clarke, of Bokola.

3892. You authorised him to supply the meal?—Yes, and Delphin sent meal out.

3893. What did you charge for the meal?—10d. a stone was the contract for yellow meal.

3894. And for oatmeal?—I disremember, 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d.

3895. Is there any money due to you?—Yes.

3896. How much?—I do not recollect.

3897. Have you any cheques in hand that you have not presented?—No, I gave them to Delphin and enforced them.

Mr. William Carey.

Witness.
Mr. William
Camp.

3898. All the cheques you get from the Board you give to Dolphin, and he paid himself?—Yes.
3899. Though you were contractor you did not take much interest in it—you said you were backwards and forward to England?—Yes.
3900. Do you know what is due to you?—No.
3901. Have you a shop at Bohola?—No.
3902. So you could not have done much yourself in carrying out the contract?—No, it was the boys that were doing it.
3903. Mr. Daly.—Have you any land?—Yes.
3904. Did you ever take a contract before?—I have a contract for straw for the union.
3905. Put Clarke is your brother-in-law?—Yes.
3906. He has a son Pat?—Yes.
3907. They live in the same house?—I could not say—sometimes they do.
3908. Do you not live at Bohola?—Yes.
3909. And don't you know if Pat lives with his father?—I am not supposed to know all their affairs.
3910. Does William live with him?—I can't say.
3911. Mr. Daly.—Take it that he does.
3912. Mr. Daly.—I am asking the witness. Are they not joined together in trade?—I don't know.
3913. You got this meal I think you said from Dolphin?—Yes.
3914. Do you know did Clarke pass a bill to Dolphin for the money?—I know nothing about the man's affairs.
3915. Now, as a matter of fact, do you know how this meal was given out?—According to the tickets that was my order.
3916. Tell me, did you get any of the profits?—No.
3917. You simply put yourself forward, got the contract, and gave it to others to carry out?—Yes.
3918. It was the Clarke's managed it all for you?—Pat Clarke did.
3919. Only Pat Clarke?—It was him I gave it to, and he had the crane.
3920. Now, do you know a man named McNulty?—I do. I know a good many.
3921. A servant of Clarke's?—I do not know him to be a man named McNulty.
3922. Clarke is your brother-in-law?—Aye.
3923. Where is this straw you speak of just now?—Sometimes I throw it on the road.
3924. That is the only answer you will give. Very well. What was the price you charged for the Indian meal?—I could not tell you.
3925. What did you charge a stone for oatmeal?—I could not tell.
3926. Would you be surprised to hear you charged 2s. 6d. a stone?—I do not know anything about that.
3927. Do you know anything about anything. Is it not a fact that you were put forward by the Clarke as the contractor, and that they did the work?—I came here and made the application.
3928. And they did all the work, and received all the profit?—My own children and boys were there.
3929. What age is your eldest son?—I could not say.
3930. You are full of information—in he twenty?—I could not say; I have something else to do besides putting down a register.
3931. Was your son at home when you were in England?—Yes.
3932. Would it not have been more natural that your son should have done the work, than your brother-in-law?—My son was there doing some of it.
3933. You said to buy from Dolphin?—Yes.
3934. And where was the stuff delivered?—Where?
3935. Yes, where?—At Pat Clarke's store-house.
3936. That is his place of business?—Yes, for business, or pigs if he likes.
Please answer quietly.
Mr. Morrison.—This is not Mr. Clarke, the gardener, he refers to.

Witness.—I mean the old man.
3936. Mr. Daly.—Of course. All the Clarke's live in the same house?—I do not know. They would be off and on. I don't know all their affairs.
3937. They have no other business place but this—they have no separate houses?—They have a house in many a place.
3938. Very good. Now, do you know did any of the persons who were getting relief work for the Clarke in the summer?—I do not know whether they did or not. They have men employed in their own work.
3939. Do you know Michael Byrne?—There are a good many of the name.
3940. Of Toomevanagh, your next neighbour?—I know a man of that name.
3941. I never saw you so ignorant before, as you appear to-day. Is there a Michael Byrne of Toomevanagh, except the man I refer to?—There is another.
3942. Then you know the man I refer to, and, on your oath, don't you know that this man worked on Clarke's farm, and that he was paid by the relief money?—No, he was not there at all; he was in England at the time. He used to go there off and on.
3943. You don't know anything, then, about this, except simply that you got this contract, and it was carried out by the Clarke's?—By Pat Clarke, senior, and my own children.
3944. Do you know Catherine O'Donnell?—You want me to know a lot of these.
3945. Do you know Catherine O'Donnell?—I might know her.
3946. You might, indeed. Did she ever present you with a relief ticket?—No.
3947. You swear that?—Yes.
3948. Would it be true, if the woman came up here and swore that she went to you with a relief ticket, and that you said you had nothing to do with it?
Mr. Morrison.—I object to that. The man has sworn this woman did not present him with a ticket.
3949. Mr. Daly.—Would it be true, sir, if this woman swore she presented you with a ticket, and you said you had no interest in it, and that it was the Clarke's who were interested?—I don't remember it.
3950. Could such a thing have taken place?—It did not, to my knowledge.
3951. Mr. Morrison.—Did you sign a bond?—Yes.
3952. With sureties?—Yes.
3953. Did you receive cheques in your name?—Yes.
3954. And endorse them to Dolphin?—Yes.
3955. For meal?—Yes.
3956. Pat Clarke managed the distribution for you?—Yes.
3957. And from him the goods were got?—Yes.
3958. Mr. Daly.—When the cheques were endorsed over to Dolphin, was that done by the direction or wish of Clarke?—I know my own business without applying to Clarke.
3959. Did he know you were endorsing the cheques over to Dolphin?—It was when I got the cheques, I endorsed them.
3960. But was it by Clarke's wish?—No.
3961. What did you mean by saying that you left the management of all this to old Pat Clarke?
Mr. Morrison.—How does this arise at all?
Mr. Daly.—You asked the question if he got cheques in his own name and endorsed them over to Dolphin, and I now want to know whether Pat Clarke was aware, and whether it was by his direction.—
Witness.—It was by no direction.
3961. Mr. Daly.—Who were the sureties?—Mr. Alden and Edward Hurst.
3962. The Relieving Officer?—Yes.
3963. Did you know Hurst long?—From infancy.
3964. This Pat Clarke who said for you is the father?—Yes.

3973. Is he postmaster?—I suppose so.

Mr. Mannion.—Does this arise at all—

Mr. Daly.—I merely want to know, whether Pat Clarke was postmaster and proprietor of a public-house?

Witness.—The store-room is off the public-house.

3976. Is Pat Clarke of Belshole, postmaster?—I heard he was.

3977. At all events you are aware that there is a post office there?—Yes.

3978. And is it the same Pat Clarke who keeps the publichouse and the post office?—I cannot swear whether it is the son or father.

3979. Mr. Mannion.—Was this relief administered in the store?—Yes.

3980. Apart from the licensed premises?—Yes.

3981. Mr. Daly.—How do you know if you were in England?—When I would come home I used to go out there and see.

3982. Did you not swear a moment ago that you were off and on in England, and that you really knew nothing about this?—When I would come home I would go out and then I could see how it was going.

3983. Will you swear that none of this relief was administered at the publichouse?—I could not say that.

Witness.

Mr. William Carey

A. J. Stevenson, F.R.S., sworn.

3984. Mr. Robinson.—You are Vice-Chairman?—Yes.

3985. Had you great pressure for relief when the Act was first started?—Yes, the doctors' reports were most alarming throughout the unions, and these reports were corroborated by the fact that such large numbers of people came crowding to the house.

3986. Crowding into the workhouse?—Applying to the relieving officers. The Swinford Relieving Officer had a crowd appealing to him.

3987. And therefore, there was great difficulty in distributing as to who was really entitled to relief?—Yes. It was suggested, when we got the letter of the Local Government Board and Captain Sampson was here, that the best thing to do was to open some workhouse. This was done, and a great risk went on the roads, and we thought there was a little abuse and we determined to check it. What we did then, in my division, was to stop the works for a bit with this object.

3988. Did you strike every one off?—Yes. It was for a two-fold reason, first, we believed there was abuse—perhaps the people were too much inclined to rush from their houses on to the works. Then there was another matter. This was in May, when the people are busy turning out manure for the potatoes. There is not a day but I was about the divisions, and we saw that the people were neglecting that work and that the manure being left exposed and drying was becoming useless. I asked the people why did they not stop at home, and they told, as long as they got the opportunity of earning a shilling to get bread they would not stop at home. This was natural enough, but it was also very serious, and we did what we could to counteract the evil without injury to the really distressed.

3989. Were the Relieving Officers instructed by the Board of Guardians to consult the local guardians of the divisions?—They were, as a matter of courtesy. The custom was for both to go over the list, and any cases not fit subjects for relief were struck off.

3990. Did you give positive orders or merely advice?—No positive orders, for of course the relieving officer in providing relief had more authority than any guardian.

3991. When the relieving officers' books were signed were they ever signed for the work that was to follow?—By way of approval I always initialed the names that were submitted to me.

3992. For what had been done?—For the coming week, and that was approved of by the chairman at the subsequent meeting.

3993. You initialed them for the week to come?—Yes.

3994. Would it not have been possible in the ordinary way for the relieving officer to have submitted all the cases to the chairman of the Board and get the ruling?—No.

3995. Why?—From the number, and all they had to do in filling in the names in the application book.

3996. If they had been able to write up the application and report books would the chairman have been

able to have gone through them?—Well, as it was, the chairman used to sit until six in the evening, and found it impossible to rule the books.

3997. Did the guardians meet regularly?—Throughout the eleven weeks they had to have adjourned meetings.

3998. Do you not think there was great risk in cutting off so many as you did?—Well, we took every possible precaution to prevent any risk. In my own division we relieved from 300 to 400 weekly, and they were what I may call the pick of the destitute people throughout the country.

3999. What would the guardians have done if there was no Poor Relief Act?—If we had not the aid of that Act we would have had a repetition of the starvation scenes of '47.

4000. You think there was as much destitution?—Yes, and there was not the same money coming from the Irish labourers in England as there used to be. The farmers even in England have found out that there is a failure in the markets, that they are not able to sell produce or get money, or give employment to the Irishmen who go over.

4001. Would not many of those people be able to come into the workhouse?—The workhouse test was applied in many cases, but in my division they would not come to the workhouse. There is of course a very strong feeling against it, but in very many cases on the other hand they would come in, and certainly they were destitute enough for it.

4002. Was the relief sufficient?—No, the grant was small, and not equal to meet the dire distress.

4003. Was there much abuse in your district?—Scarcely any at all.

4004. Were there many cases where people got relief who should not?—No.

4005. Were there many cases of people who should have got relief and who did not?—No.

4006. What staff was there?—The relieving officer, the assistant, the local guardian, and the paragon.

4007. Do you think the relief was administered as economically as possible?—We could not improve on it to-morrow. I remember Captain Sampson, and Mr. O'Rourke, and the clerk, and two relieving officers, and I went out to my division and there saw people who had no food or fuel, bed or bedding, and some with scarcely a house.

4008. Why did the guardians make the order that people were to get relief from any contractor?—These might have been jealousy about one contractor not thinking he got as much as another. I do not know that there was actually a resolution passed on the subject, but I think it was left to the discretion of the relieving officer to leave it open.

4009. It was purely to convenience the applicants for relief?—Yes, it was. The land is of a very poor quality. There is scarcely any arable land in Swinford, and there is an enormous quantity of outaway bog.

4010. Are you aware if there were charitable organizations at work in the Union?—Not in Swinford Union to my knowledge. In the other parts they had charitable agents assisting them along with

Mr. A. J. Stevenson, F.R.S.

DEPOSITION
Mr. A. J.
Stanton,
P.L.O.

the Act, but here we were exclusively depending on that.

4008. Mr. Edgington.—I understood you to give Mr. Robinson as a reason for stopping the works, that you wanted the people to go and till the lands—I meant to convey that I thought they were losing the manure, and that the dry exposure was destroying it, and I thought it heartrending, for I knew the consequences that would come afterwards. In fact we may, as it is, have a repetition of the starvation next year, and no potato crop.

4010. Why did you suspend them on the 25th of May?—Well, we were not getting the money, but I won't say that that was the reason we stopped them in my division, for we would not let the people starve in any case. Indeed I often gave the people money out of my own pocket, and had to do it.

4011. Were you here on the 26th of May?—I am usually here, and I was very regular in my attendance. The clerk, of course, could tell. I do not think I missed a meeting through the time of the distribution of the relief. The works were, no doubt, stopped in a measure, because, as expressed on the minutes, of the small amount of the grant recommended by the Local Government Board, and having regard to the terms of the correspondence received from them, and the guardians having no funds to pay the contractors, and their accounts being already overdrawn £700. That order, however, was not stringent, for the relieving officers understood that they had the power to relieve provisionally.

4012. You would not consider the smallness of the grant a sufficient reason for stopping the relief works?—Not at all, we were determined that if the divisions could bear it, the people would be relieved.

4013. On the 15th of June the works were again suspended, and the reason given is that all relief be suspended in the ensuing week until the guardians ascertain how the electoral divisions can bear the expenditure—the relieving officers to give temporary assistance. There again the want of money is given as the reason?—Well, the relieving officers were, at the same time told to relieve provisionally, and not to allow anyone to starve. That was the order of the presiding chairman. We were very particular, and I think we got safely through it. There was not a case I knew of where a person died of starvation, and I think the Board exerted themselves as much as possible. They attended fully and regularly.

4014. You might have heard my question about the sudden stoppage of relief in some cases; can you give an explanation of that—of it occurred in several divisions?—Well, I know in one division where a young man said it was in consequence of the death of a relative.

4015. In Ullanur on the 22nd of May, the number

receiving relief was 1,170, and on the 29th of May there was a drop down to six?—I think the cause of this was that sometimes some of the divisions used to issue the relief fortnightly, and others weekly, and there would be a great rush on the weeks at first, but a great number would be knocked off.

4016. But you will admit it is a curious thing to find only six persons relieved, or apparently requiring relief in one week?—It is indeed curious unless the relieving officer can give some explanation of it.

4017. It must be taken, however, that only six were in receipt of provisional relief, and so far as appears, only six required it. There are a great many more similar cases. In Serragh, for instance, there the relief was reduced from 2,180 to 283, and there were a great many similar cases. Did it not strike the guardians, and did it not prove that there were altogether too many people put on the first week?—The only answer I can give is that I suppose it did, and that in order to stop abuses they reduced the number, but I do not believe they would do it if they knew the people were in destitution.

4018. If there were 238 only requiring relief that week, how is it that next week there were 531 and the next 1,584?—It is very strange, no doubt.

4019. But taking the union generally, the relief went from 15,000 on the 22nd May to 12,000 in the week ending the 29th May, and all I want to know is, do you not think that points to an undue number of people being allowed on the relief works on the 22nd when we find that after a week or so they were able to reduce them by one half?—Perhaps the week after was double.

4020. No, the week after was 17,000?—Clearly there must have been some abuse.

4021. Then in June there is a change from 26,000 to 28,000?—I am unable to explain it.

4022. Mr. Mossion.—Are you aware that the guardians at the beginning of the distribution of the relief to the end of May were endeavouring as much as possible to economise?—Yes.

4023. I believe they were rather afraid they would not get enough money to relieve the distress?—Yes.

4024. And abuses were creeping in?—Yes, they thought when the rush came on the works there must be many cases of abuse.

4025. And it is possible that they then struck the people off with perhaps too little discrimination in the anxiety to keep within bounds?—It may be so.

4026. And do you think that there were people struck off, who though not on the verge of starvation, yet required relief?—Yes.

4027. They were struck off until further inquiries would be made into their circumstances?—Yes.

Myles B. Jordan, Chairman of the Board, sworn.

Mr. Myles B.
Jordan.

4028. Mr. Robinson.—You are chairman of the Board?—Yes.

4029. Were you able to attend pretty regularly during the administration of the Act?—Yes, pretty regularly.

4030. Are you able to corroborate the evidence of Mr. Bennett?—Yes.

4031. You can speak with some confidence as to the district to which you belong?—Yes. I must say that everything was done that man could possibly do, by the guardians and officers appointed by them to see and meet the awful distress that existed. The people were in a terrible state. The people live in miserable places, their holdings are very small and the land is very bad generally speaking. It may be that some who got relief would have a cow or even two cows. Well, the butter that that man makes of a cow or two is little good, and they do not have a morsel of that to use in their own houses. They have nothing. The few eggs are sold, and in fact they have none of

these things that ordinary people have in other countries. They principally live by the buttermilk and potatoes, and in the summer season when the potatoes are exhausted they have to take to the Indian meal, and many and many of them to my knowledge were living on dry Indian meal and had nothing else, and little of that, and I consider that a man with a wife and family living on that and having nothing to look to is in a state bordering on starvation. That is my idea. I think that no body of men ever did more or went further than the guardians of this union to alleviate that distress to the best of their ability. They left nothing undone. I have heard it stated here to-day, that some of the guardians put some of the people on to work in their electoral divisions. That was simply because they knew the people well, and knew their condition—no one knows them better—and they knew therefore that the people were in dire and absolute distress. And the Board left it optional with them to put such people on as they were really

Witness.
Mr. Myles H.
Jordan.

the best judges of whether they were fit and proper subjects for relief. The Board also allowed the guardians to select the temporary relieving officers and it is not to be forgotten that all these things came on in a great hurry. The distress was great, the Act came suddenly, there was undoubtedly and naturally a rush, and it was really very difficult to face the difficulty and meet all the cases at once, and with the exactness and care that under other circumstances would have been demanded. The result was that in many cases inexperienced men had to be taken who knew little or nothing of the working of the poor laws before, and those things had to be remedied and counteracted as best we could. I have had people coming to me from Kilkenny and different places as well as from my own place—I live at Tocomanagh—they have come to me, thinking that as chairman of the Board, I had extraordinary power and could get them put on the relief works. I took down the names of these people—their stories were heartrending and the tales they told of themselves and their families going to bed supperless—without bit or sup, during these days of distress and misery, would move any man's heart. And their tales were too true. They have told me that they had not one morsel even of the dry Indian meal to eat, and I know that later as was the story I heard from their lips, it was no exaggeration of the lamentable truth.

4032. Mr. Belfryton.—You took down their names?—Yes.

4033. What happened to—I inquired of the relieving officers and the cases were discussed at the Board.

4034. And did you make an order as chairman?—Yes.

4035. I have seen some of the books in which you appear to have signed for a whole page?—Well, my idea was—if of course it was not exactly in keeping with the orders of the Local Government Board—that if the guardians of the division made inquiry into the circumstances of the cases for distribution of relief in his division—he being accountable to the election and metropolitan of that division and for any abuse that might occur—and if he signed and approved of it knowing the particulars, that the chairman might lawfully endorse it. That was what I considered.

4036. Was that endorsed the same day?—Yes, I think so; that is my opinion. The day the book was brought up and initialed each guardian took up the cases belonging to his division, and went over all the names with the relieving officer.

4037. And your endorsement was on the same day as the guardian's initials?—Yes; after the guardian of the division went over the names with the relieving officer and initialed it as correct, I then endorsed it, considering that a very fair test of the case.

4038. As to the necessity which existed at the time for this relief, to what did you attribute it?—The failure of the crops—the failure of the potato crops—the failure of oats. Oats of course fell away entirely. A man with a self would not get half what he would get at another time.

4039. Was there a want of credit?—Oh, dear, yes, that was entirely gone, and in fact people were in a very bad state indeed. I do not know if I am going outside the inquiry in saying it, but I do not consider the road working test a good system at all as to poverty. That has been the result of my experience of the way in which it worked.

4040. What would you consider a good test?—Well I would, according to my notion, adopt something like the German system of "Land Banks." I think if a man of such a time got £2, £3, or £4, as the case might be, to husband it himself and make the best provision he could to tide him over, it would be much better.

4041. On what security?—The land, the same as the poor rates. I would charge a certain amount of interest. The man who would not borrow should pay the bank a certain amount of money. I would cease

a bank to be formed within the union or county to meet such an emergency, so that men could be lent—such as Mr. Brady's to the labourers, and that would doubtless meet the requirements of the union. The man who would get the money would know how to use it to most advantage. But going away from his work, labouring on roads for a few stones of Indian meal induces a neglect of work, throws them back, and, worst of all, is a most demoralising system in its effects.

4041A. In endorsing the entries in these books on what dates did you proceed?—The book was brought before me. I did not myself go carefully into each case, but the guardians of the division and the relieving officer having done so, I assumed it was all right.

4042. I notice in this book there is but one endorsement to half a dozen different dates?—It means simply, "I agree with the action of these guardians."

4043. I only wanted to know if you could say when you signed that?—I could not say exactly.

4044. Was it after all the relief was over, or after the first week?—I could not precisely say.

Mr. Munnies.—There were two signatures, the deputy vice-chairman's and the guardian's too.

4045. Did the same chairman initial it on each occasion?—No, the deputy vice-chairman initialed for a certain time.

4046. Mr. Daly.—Of course you know Bohola?—Yes.

4047. You reside there?—It is my parish.

4048. Did you ever give orders to the relieving officer on Mr. Patrick Clarke's?—I do not think so; I gave a recommendation very likely to the guardians recommending such and such a person as deserving of relief.

4049. Did you ever give an order for meal on Clarke junior's?—Never, to my knowledge.

4050. Do you recollect the crowds of people who came about the workhouse here in May?—Yes.

4051. Did they come to you to complain of the conduct of any of the guardians?—I do not recollect any specific case; but in such an instance I would tell them to come here, and leave word with the porter to admit. Some complaints have been heard, and found to be frivolous.

4051A. Did you ever hear of persons working for Clarke and getting paid by relief tickets?—No; I do not believe he would be guilty of such a thing.

4052. Do you know any instances in which this relief was allocated to persons for whom it was not intended by the Act?—No, I do not know of any.

4053. Mr. Munnies.—As far as you know the relief was necessary?—Yes.

4054. The guardians of the divisions recommended certain persons for relief?—Yes.

4055. And the relieving officer exercised a discretion?—Yes.

4056. But was largely influenced by the guardian?—No doubt.

4057. In mentioning the cases of distress I do not know if you mentioned the fact that there was a great failure of work in England?—There is no doubt there was. There was no time up to the very end when there was any money coming from England, and that kept the men away in England later than usual.

4058. As a matter of fact, are not the people of this union dependent very much on the wages earned in England?—Yes, in the summer months.

4059. There are many who have no other means of living at all?—Yes; the land is very bad.

4060. What division of this union is Mr. Taaff's estate in?—Tocomanagh.

4061. That is the estate the Land Commissioners came to the conclusion is not worth anything?—Yes.

4062. And on which it is admitted the people could not live unless for the money they get from America?—Yes, I read it in the papers.

4063. Are you aware that on that estate the people get very little comparatively?—Yes.

Ignatius P. O'Donnell, r.n.m., sworn.

DEPOSITION. 4064. Mr. *Mossman*.—You are Deputy Vice-Chairman?—Yes.
 4065. What division do you represent?—Brackloon.

4066. Can you speak as to the distress in the division of Brackloon?—Yes, I know it intimately.

4067. You have property there?—Yes.

4068. Are the people there generally very poor in the summer months?—Yes, very poor indeed.

4069. Were they this year exceptionally distressed?—Yes, and there were reasons, too.

4070. What were the chief reasons?—Well, last year their earnings in England fell off to a very great extent, and then again there was great mortality amongst pigs, and that was a very serious matter indeed. In one village they lost over £300 worth of pigs, and for that and other reasons they were not able to meet their debts.

4071. Well, now, at that time were many of them in a state almost of starvation?—Yes.

4072. Do you believe that if they had not got this relief many of them would have starved?—I do, and what is more, I remember the distress that was here in 1880. I was there with the relieving officer. I went to see that the relief was properly administered to those who required it, and at that time there were charitable funds coming from different places.

4073. Contrasting the distress of that year with the distress of the present year, which, in your opinion, was the greatest?—This was far more acute.

4074. There was a grant in 1880 for the relief of the people?—Yes.

4075. And that was supplemented by charitable funds?—Yes, by three or four funds—the Marlborough fund, the Marston House fund, the League fund, and the "Herald" fund.

4076. This year the people were altogether dependent on the Local Government Board—no money came from any other sources?—No. I might mention a case that came before the board. It was brought up by Mr. Hoekan, and I objected because I thought it was not a fit and proper case, the applicant being a man I had known years previously as a man in very good circumstances, and from what I considered at the time, I went so far as asking the chairman of the Board not to initial the relief for the coming week. However, I made inquiries, and the result was that when I came back I had to ask the chairman to initial it, and to admit that the statement of the relieving officer hardly came up to the mark in describing the state of destitution of that man.

4077. In Brackloon were the people living on Indian meal without even milk to mix with it?—There were a great many instances of people who had cattle that were perfectly useless in May. It is all acorn-bark pasture, and the cattle are not saleable before July.

4078. I did not ask about cattle, but I asked did the people live often on dry yellow meal?—Yes, often and often.

4079. Was the system of credit with the shopkeepers almost entirely stopped?—It was nearly stopped then, and has been altogether stopped since.

4080. And there was a marked falling off in the money coming from England?—Yes.

4081. Did you exercise a careful personal supervision of the relief in your division?—Yes; a thorough supervision.

4082. And you were satisfied with the way in which the relief was administered?—Yes.

4083. Did you approve of or know of any case in which relief was given to persons who were not entitled to it?—There might have been a few on the first occasion, and when I went over the book I struck those cases out. Subsequently I had to get them on again. Owing to the result of my inquiries through the division as to the circumstances of the people, I found that they were far worse than I anticipated.

4084. Were there not roads made in your division?—Yes.

4085. Some were very useful?—Yes. They were not continued long enough to be completed.

4086. But they were useful works?—Yes.

4087. Do you think that the excess of expenditure over the Local Government Board grant was necessary?—Not only necessary, but I should say it was not nearly sufficient.

4088. Do you believe it would be possible to keep the people alive during this time if the Guardians did not expend the £4,500 odd?—No. You would have had a worse famine fever than in 1880.

4089. What was the expenditure per head of the population per week during the time the relief lasted?—Three pence per head.

4090. What proportion of the population obtained relief?—About one-half.

4091. Would not more than one-half have obtained relief?—No, though more than one-half required it. The population is 8,514, the valuation is £1,658, and from the excessive rates struck in this division in the years past, coupled with the county cess, 2s. in the pound—coupling these two things it comes a terrible tax upon the people, and the taxpayers in that division are ground down so that they are utterly unable to pay the rates on them, so much so that it was only by pawning their things—their wearing apparel, &c.—that they paid the last and previous rate.

4091A. Was the last rate in course of collection when you were giving the relief?—Yes.

4092. And the county cess?—Yes, but the people had to pawn all their effects.

4093. Is not the poor rate nearly all paid by the landlord?—I pay about one-fifth of the cess of the entire division.

4094. Who does Brackloon belong to?—I own portion of it; Mr. McDonnell, of Waterford, and Captain Brabant own other portions.

4095. Are not the majority of occupiers under £4 valuation?—Yes.

4096. Do the tenants pay the rate in the first instance and deduct it from the rent?—No; nearly the whole are liable to pay.

4097. Mr. *Mossman*.—I believe a good many of the holdings there are held jointly?—Yes.

4098. And though separated as between the people themselves and each hold distinctly, still as regards the landlord they are joint tenants?—Yes; in about ten or twelve cases.

4099. And if these were rated on what is really their holding their rate would be under £4, and as such not liable to pay rate?—Yes.

4100. But holding jointly it is over £4, and they have to pay?—Yes.

4101. Mr. *Robinson*.—How long did the distress last?—All what date about?—I should say until the 1st of August. In this division the men go to England—some in February, some in March, April, May, and June, and they send home something for those at home to live on and pay their way, and when we found any money in that way coming we discontinued the relief, so that between certain dates no relief was given. Unless we knew people to be entirely destitute we did not afford relief—we let them suffer but we would not let them starve. There was an increase of paupers in the house, of course.

4102. You were able to prevent actual starvation before the passing of the Act?—Yes; and though the distress widely existed it was not absolutely general.

4103. When did the distress end?—Between the 7th and 10th of July. That is the extraordinary distress.

4104. So that portion of July was not as bad as May or June?—In some instances—but then you should know the district intimately to be able to say positively as to that. Many people went to England

and earned nothing, and it is by inquiring into these matters you could alone arrive at the facts.

4105. Take the division generally—would you say there was more suffering in May than in July?—Considerably more.

4106. And is that usually the case?—No, not generally. Last year was exceptional in this instance, and in the year before they had a very bad time in England, and the terrible mortality in pigs by which, as I said, in one place between £300 and £400 was lost, all tended to make the time one of exceptional distress.

4107. How did they get any better off in July?—Some who went to England brought home a little money.

4108. When did they come from England?—In June and July.

4109. So early?—Yes.

4110. Do you think a large amount of money came from England in June and July?—No, not a large amount, but enough just to keep people from starvation.

4111. In fact in your district the reduction was from 1,438 on the 15th June to nothing on the 22nd of July?—Well, yes—we then discontinued relief except in very severe cases.

4112. On the 22nd there was no relief?—Well, I suppose no one wanted it except those who went to the workhouse.

Mr. Myles Jordan.—It was discontinued from time to time. There was no sum allocated to the union, and the guardians did not know what they would get, and they were afraid to involve the people, and sometimes stopped it for a week.

Witness.—Yes, that is the case, we never at the same time allowed a really destitute case to be unrelieved.

4113. Mr. Radington.—What I would wish to know is—how these people managed to get on for the first night after you stopped the relief, assuming them to have been in a destitute condition before you ceased giving the relief?—The relief aided them to that extent, and of course the ordinary relief continued.

The Inquiry adjourned until the next morning.

Witnesses
—
Mr. Joseph
P. O'Donnell.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1886.

Dec. 4, 1886.

SWINEFORD UNION.

The Commissioners resumed the Inquiry in the Boardroom of the Workhouse

Martin Sheridan sworn.

4114. Mr. Daly.—Mr. Sheridan, you are a ratepayer in the division of Bohola?—Yes.

4115. I understand your valuation is £70?—Yes, £70 odd a year.

4116. Now, do you know how this Poor Relief Act was worked in the divisions of Bohola and Toomansagh?—I have not been a witness of the distribution of relief, but I am aware that gross recklessness has been carried on, so far as giving relief to those who did not want it is concerned, and not giving to those who did want it.

4117. Who are the guardians of those divisions?—Patrick and William Clarke.

4118. Patrick Clarke is the guardian for Bohola?—Yes, and William for Toomansagh.

4119. Where do they reside?—In the village of Bohola.

4120. And they were in business there?—Yes, they are shopkeepers and farmers.

4121. Are any of these Clarks postmaster of the district?—Yes, their father.

4122. Is there a public-house attached to the house? Yes, the same house, but different sets of apartments.

4123. Who keeps the public-house?—The sign-board has the name of Patrick Clarke.

4124. Which of them?—I cannot say.

4125. Mr. Robinson.—What is the father's name?—Patrick.

4126. Mr. Daly.—I believe it is contrary to the rules of the post-office that the postmaster should keep a public-house?

Mr. Messieu.—I do not think that is relevant to our inquiry.

4127. Mr. Daly.—Very well. Who was the contractor for the distribution of relief during the summer?—I have heard it was William Carey.

Mr. Robinson.—Don't mind what you heard.

Witness.—I can't swear to it positively.

4128. Mr. Daly.—Did you hear Mr. Carey?—I did.

4129. Did you hear him swear he was the contractor?—Yes.

4130. Do you know, as a matter of fact, who delivered and distributed this meal to the people?—I have seen Clarke there, and his horses and carts, carrying the meal to Bohola.

4131. Do you know where, in Bohola, it was stored?—I can't say.

4132. Can you say where it was given out to the poor?—I cannot say, of my own knowledge.

4133. Do you know the contract-price given to those people?—Only from the public report.

Mr. Messieu.—I object to the public report.

4134. Mr. Daly.—Do you know the current price this year for Indian meal?—About 9d. a stone.

4135. And for oatmeal?—1s. 6d. or 1s. 7d.

4136. I believe there were notices said to have been posted as to these contracts in the district?—There were ones whatever. I live within a couple of hundred yards of the village, and I state that there was no knowledge whatever, outside the village of Bohola, of any notice or advertisement.

4137. If notice had been duly given, would the contract have been taken at a less price than that for which it was carried out by Carey?

Mr. Messieu.—I object to his opinion of what would have been done.

4137A. Mr. Daly.—If these notices or advertisements for a contractor had been promulgated, would the contract, as a matter of fact, have been taken at a less sum?—I believe the contract for Indian meal would have been taken at 8d. a stone.

4138. And the oatmeal?—It would have been done at much lower than it was done.

4139. As regards the relief works, do you know if any relief works were carried out in the district at all?—There were.

4140. What relief works were carried out?—A few by-roads, but nothing that the people really wanted. Last spring Clarke applied here for £145 to drain his own yard. I got that quashed for the ratepayers who opposed, and he refused to accommodate them in any way whatever, when this recent work was undertaken.

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4141. Do you mean in the way of relief—were those people whom he refused to accommodate destitute—I don't quite follow you?—Yes, some were, and some were not. He would only help his own friends.

4142. Mr. Dolg.—These Clarke are farmers and shopkeepers?—Yes.

4143. You are under agent for Sir Charles Gore's estate?—Yes.

4144. And you knew they are tenants "in co"?—Yes.

4145. As regards their shop and land?—Yes, they are tenants of Sir Charles Gore.

4146. Do you know James Brown, of Roslevant?—I know of him, but am not acquainted with him.

4147. Did he work last summer on Clarke's farm?—I cannot say.

4148. Did any of those men on the list you produce work on his farm?—Yes.

4149. Would you name some whom you know who worked on the farm?—The whole parish came to me, and this has been worked up for two months. They waited on me daily, and I cannot make an exception. Everyone in the parish grumbled at what was done.

4150. Do you know anyone who told you he worked on Clarke's farm?—

Mr. Morrison.—I must really object to this. If there is anyone can prove that he did work he ought to be produced, and, therefore, I object to vouch some one told this witness.

Mr. Dolg.—My object in putting the question to Mr. Sheridan is this. I do not want, if I can avoid it, to burden you with the examination of a very large number of witnesses. What I was desirous of, therefore, was to get from Mr. Sheridan a verification of the statements these people made to him, and handing it in as evidence, and of examining one or two of these witnesses only. Of course I know I cannot, in strict law, give in evidence what was said behind the backs of the Clarke, but knowing that your object is to get the facts and the truth, and that you have power to make your own rules, as to the class of evidence you will take, and the method of taking it, I did not think my questions would be open to objection.

Mr. Morrison.—I do not want to have a strict rule of legal evidence enforced, but I would ask you to exclude the statement of that man as to a statement made to him by some other and unknown persons. Surely the shortest way is to have them produced.

Mr. Redington.—I think the best way would be to examine the witnesses who can testify to the fact.

4151. Mr. Dolg.—Very well. In any case you say you do yourself not know about these people working on Clarke's farm?—I have seen people in the parish working on it, but I cannot give the names from my seat.

Mr. Morrison.—Then leave it alone.

4152. Mr. Dolg.—Your experience, however, was that the relief in this district was not properly administered?—It was not.

4153. Is there anything else you wish to add?—Well, there is a man here who is not mentioned, who got a ticket for 2s. 6d. worth of meat from Clarke, who refused to give him relief if he did not take it in drink, and therefore witnesses to be examined.

4154. Mr. Morrison.—Are you actuated in this matter simply by motives of philanthropy, and an anxiety to save the rates?—Yes, if you take it as so.

4155. But is it so?—Yes.

4156. You have no hostility towards Mr. Clarke?—No, none whatever.

4157. You have no ill-feeling of any kind towards him?—None whatever.

4158. Now, when did it first strike you that this distribution was being abused?—When it was rumored that the free grant was wanted, and that the guardians were giving out the relief in the way they were, I knew the ratespayers would have to meet it.

4159. When did it strike you first that the relief was being abused?—About the end of July.

4160. About the end of July?—It was abused all through.

4161. When was it you first found it was being abused?—I never paid any attention to it till I found it would be a levy on the rates.

4162. Will you endeavour to answer a very simple question—when did it strike you first that the relief was being abused?—At the very beginning.

4163. But I understood you took no action whatever until the end of July?—No.

4164. And you were actuated then by the fear that the levy would be put on the people and yourself amongst them?—Yes, quite so.

4165. If you had thought or suspected that a free grant would have been given for the purpose of paying off the surplus you would have taken no action?—None whatever.

4166. Though you are an honest man?—I am glad you think so.

4167. Well, I ask your own opinion about it—do you consider yourself an honest man?—I do.

4168. And though you are an honest man, and though you knew that this relief was being abused, was being distributed to people who should not have got it, and was withheld from people who should have got it, you took no steps till July, and even then would have taken no action only you were afraid there would have been a levy upon you?—No, none.

4169. Now you have had meetings held in reference to this matter?—None, sir.

4170. Did you attend meetings?—None.

4171. Have there not been meetings held after mass?—No, deputations have waited at my house.

4172. Oh? They were not meetings but deputations?—Yes.

4173. Did they come by invitation?—I posted a notice on the gate once or twice.

4174. More than once?—I think twice.

4175. Did you post notices on the chapel gate telling the people that the rate struck for Bohela was 4s. 9d.?—The rate?

4176. You have heard my question—did you post a notice at the chapel stating that the rate for Bohela would be 4s. 9d.?—I did.

4177. And was that before the rate was struck at all?—Let me explain.

4178. Was it or was it not?—No. I must explain. After the estimates were laid before the Board it was done.

4179. Was it before the rate was struck, on your oath?—I don't know if the rate is struck now.

4180. Then what did you mean this moment by saying the notice was not posted before the rate was struck?—It was after the estimate was before the Board.

4181. I did not ask you that. Was that notice posted after the estimate was prepared?—Yes.

4182. Were you here when the estimate was laid before the Board?—No.

4183. How do you know?—I got the information from an official.

4184. An official of the Union?—Aye.

4185. Give us his name?—That I refuse.

4186. You refuse to give his name?—I do.

4187. Mr. Redington.—What objection can you have to give his name?—It will drag the whole of the guardians down on the top of the man.

4188. Mr. Morrison.—Don't you mind that—it will do nothing of the kind. Out with the name?—I refuse. For the man's own safety I object.

4189. Mr. Redington.—I do not want to press you further if you decline?—I do not want to ruin the man. I have used an estimate myself since.

4190. Mr. Morrison.—This thing you put on the chapel gate was grossly exaggerated, and was done for the simple purpose of inducing the minds of the people, and I want to know where this gentleman got the statement he alleges?

Witness.—And you won't get it.

Mr. Redington.—He has a right to get any infor-

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uation from an official of the Union, and his evidence as it stands goes for what it is worth.

Witness.—Well, I got it from John Moses of Kilmogh.

4191. Mr. Monsien.—That is the relieving officer?

—Yes.

4192. You posted a notice that the rate would be 4s. 9d.?

4193. May I ask you was that a correct statement?

—It was so far as my information was concerned.

4194. Very good, that answer will do. Did you invite a "deputation," I won't call it a meeting, to your house?

—I invited them to hear the reply of this Board to any petition to the Local Government Board, and here is their reply—I am here to contradict the whole Board.

4195. Very good. Is this your handwriting?

(Hands witness document as follows:—)

"To the superintendents of Boleals and Toocoomagh.—I have received a letter from the Local Government Board, giving to the members of the guardians in reply to the charges against them contained in our petition, if you kindly come to my place after noon Mass I will read them for you. It has been circulated in the parish that I have withdrawn my petition, and that I invited the guardians to dinner. Anything thus bring men on my way I deem beneath my notice—but these falsehoods having got public circulation, I deem it my duty to contradict them in this public manner." "MARTIN SMEDLEY"

Yes, that is my notice. There was no tree behind it.

4196. It is your writing?

4197. Is that your writing?—(Hands Witness document as follows). "Extract from Clerk of Union's minutes on 14th before the guardians last Tuesday."

Boleals Electoral Division relief rate 2s. 6d. in the pound, poor rate 2s. 1d. in the pound, total 4s. 7d. in the pound.

Toocoomagh Electoral Division, total rate 2s. 6d. in the pound?

4198. You posted these on the chapel gate?

4199. And you did that for the sole purpose of self preservation?

—Simply to put the facts before the people.

4200. For your own sake or the sake of the people?

—In the interest of the people and myself.

4201. Did you represent to the people that this levy would be put on them for 15 years?

4202. Did you ever state that to any one?

—No. I was not such a scoundrel.

4203. Oh! You were anxious to prove to the people that the relief was recklessly, wantonly, and wickedly done regard to the interests of the people, administered in the division, and the money wasted?

—Quite so.

4204. And you have induced people to come in for the purpose of proving that?

—I induced no one.

4205. Have you brought them here?

—They were so anxious as I to come.

4206. You are not a scoundrel?

4207. Are you aware that if the fact is proved that there have been abuses there—that may be—the people will have to pay for it, whereas it might be otherwise if it were known that the best was done—or was done to relieve the great distress?

—That is a matter of opinion.

4208. Are you aware of it?

—No. I am not.

4209. Would you be surprised to know that your action if successful would probably result in placing this load on the people instead of taking it off?

—I am not.

4210. And you think it would not have that effect?

—No. If so I would not move in the matter at all.

4211. On it? so you would not move in the matter at all?

—No.

4212. You told Mr. Daly that you were "under agent" to Mr. Charles Gore?

—Yes.

4213. In the olden time that would be called bribery?

—Call it so if you like.

4214. On your oath are you not his bribery?

—I am.

4215. You say you are rated at £70?

—£71 18s.

4216. On your oath do you hold a rod of land in

the union?

—I decline for personal reasons to answer you.

4217. You'll answer my question and don't be impertinent. On your oath do you hold a perch of land in this union?

—I pay rates.

4218. Do you hold a perch of land?

—I pay rates, you ought to know whether I do or not.

4219. Exactly—I know you don't?—Ah, you did your best and you had to stop you?

—Mr. Robinson—Just answer the questions, please.

4220. Mr. Monsien.—Do you swear you never represented to these people that for 15 years they would be paying this rate of 4s. 9d.?

—Seven.

4221. And you never attended a meeting about this?

—No.

4222. Were you ever at a meeting in a house of a man named Jordan?

—No.

4223. Do you know was there a meeting there?

—No.

4224. Can you point to a single case in these two divisions of Boleals and Toocoomagh where there was abuse?

—There was abuse in two-thirds of the cases.

4225. Name one?—A ticket was issued to Edward McGowan, and it was refused when presented for relief.

4226. Now give another?—There is James McCannick. I am not speaking of my own knowledge.

4227. You swear, sir, that two-thirds of the cases in which relief was issued were cases of abuse?

—I give another name, if you have it, out of the two-thirds?—You cannot make my brain a parish reservoir.

4228. A "parish reservoir," is that your answer, you allege recklessness and partiality in the administration of this relief?

—You mention one name, I ask you for another, and you talk of being a parish reservoir?

—I was not up at the distribution of the relief.

4229. Surely this is very simple: you made a violent charge—you allege wickedness and partiality—I ask you to give a single instance—can you do so or can you not?

—I have seen the meal pass by my door with people who did not want it at all.

4230. Give the names of some of them—some of those who got it, who should not?

—There is James Walsh, of Bally Hill.

4231. What about James Walsh?

—He has £75 in the post-office.

4232. Do you swear that?

—Do I swear it?

4233. On your oath, has James Walsh £75 in the post-office or anywhere else?

—I am speaking by hearsay.

4234. Again I ask you, sir, can you give a single case that you know of your own knowledge?

—I have evidence.

4235. Can you point to a single case where a man was refused relief who needed it?

—I knew of a case of John Burke, of Carrum, and he was made out a case for the dispensary, and the doctor said he was dying more from hunger than disease, and that evening they sent him two stone of meal.

4236. I asked you to point to a case of a person in distress being refused relief, and you gave me a case where two stone of meal was sent to a man?

—But he was refused at first.

4237. Do you know he was refused?

—He came and told me he was refused.

4238. More hearsay; you don't know?

—No.

4239. But you are aware that when the doctor said he needed relief he got it at once?

—I assure meal was poor relief for a man of eighty-six years of age.

4240. But are you aware that he got relief immediately the doctor said he needed it?

—I swear the guardian knew his circumstances and ailments.

4241. Can you answer the question—are you aware that he got relief under the Poor Relief Act the moment the doctor said he required it?

—(No answer.)

4242. Mr. Robinson.—Do you know it, or do you not?

—The man was refused at first.

4243. The question was whether you are aware that when the doctor said the man required it he ob-

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tained relief?—Yes, the permanent relieving officer gave it to him.

Mr. Martin.—Could not you answer at once?

4143. Mr. Robinson.—Was that under the Poor Relief Act or under the ordinary law?—I cannot say.

4144. Mr. Martin.—Well, that is the only case you can point to of its being refused?—There are numbers.

4145. Tell me another?—There are witnesses here. I cannot make my brain a reservoir for your information.

4146. The reservoir again, tell me, on your oath, can you give any case where relief was refused to a person who required and deserved it?—The people are here to give evidence.

4147. You won't answer the question?—I have answered.

4148. Do you know of a case to your own knowledge?—Numbers occurred.

4149. Except the case you mentioned, can you of your own knowledge point an instance in which relief was refused to any person who ought to have received it?—Yes, Thomas Mulligan came to say it was refused.

4150. Again I ask you do you know of a case of your own knowledge?—No.

4151. At last! Well, tell me, did you recommend any one for relief?—No.

4152. Did your wife to your knowledge?—No.

4153. Are you swearing to that as a fact?—Your statement is the first I heard of it.

4154. Is that your answer?—That is all I know about it.

4155. On your oath, do you know of your wife asking any one to give relief under this Act to any one?—I believe she would think it beneath her to interfere in the matter at all.

4156. That is not an answer. Do you know did she or did she not?—I cannot swear.

4157. Then we may take it that of your own knowledge you can give no other solitary instance of relief having been improperly administered or withheld?—That is not my answer.

4158. Most distinctly it was?—There are a number here to be examined.

4159. Do you know of one yourself?—Yes.

4160. Name them?—A lot of cases.

4161. Well, your evidence is on record and will speak for itself. For the last time, can you particularize any of these cases of supposed abuse?—What you put to me in what I cannot very well answer, for I never went into this business of relief—I was only the agent of the parish.

4162. Then you know nothing of your own knowledge?—I know what I was told.

4163. Well, we will let that rest there. Was there any distress in your division?—Yes.

4164. Was there dire distress?—There was distress.

4165. Was there dire distress?—Yes.

4166. Were the people in a very bad way from dire distress?—There were a few isolated cases.

4167. Do you know these two divisions of Bohola and Thessmington well?—Both of them.

4168. Did they require relief at all?—They did.

4169. How much would relieve the people of Bohola?—One-third of the people required relief.

4170. That was not what I asked you—but you say one-third of the people required relief?—Yes, they required more or less relief.

4171. In Bohola?—In both.

4172. Do you know how much money was spent in relief there?—£152 5s. 1d.

4173. How many families are there in the division?—I could not say.

4174. You swear that one-third of the people required more or less relief?—Yes.

4175. During how many months was this relief being distributed?—May, June and July.

4176. What do you think would be a fair sum in the division of Bohola to give occasional relief, say to one-third of the people in your opinion?—That is a very arithmetical question.

4177. And you have not a very arithmetical mind. How much would be a fair sum for three months to afford relief to one-third of the families there?—I could not say.

4178. Would £50 be too much?—It would be too much. Here is a return of the relief given. [Producing document.]

4179. Where does that come from?—From the people themselves.

4180. Can you swear that the figures are correct?—As far as I got them from the people themselves.

4181. Mr. Daly.—Was that return made out by yourself?—Yes.

4182. From information from those to whom relief was given?—Yes.

4183. And all these people were here?—They were yesterday.

4184. Mr. Martin.—They are not here now?—No.

Mr. Daly.—I submit that his return may be accepted in evidence. It is in the power of the Clerk to depose if it is incorrect.

Mr. Martin.—It is utterly valueless, being merely a statement of something he heard from some one else, with nothing whatever to verify or support it.

The Commissioners declined to receive the return.

Patrick King sworn.

Mr. Patrick
King.

4185. Dr. Daly.—Do you live at Barley Hill?—Yes.

4186. That is near Bohola?—Yes.

4187. Where these two Clerks—William and Patrick—live?—Yes.

4188. Do they live in the same house there?—I think so.

4189. Were you a waiter in the employment of any one last summer?—Yes.

4190. In whose employment?—Patrick Clarke's.

4191. Is he the guardian for Bohola?—Yes.

4192. Did you take any meal from any place?—Yes, from Foxford station.

4193. To where?—To Bohola.

4194. Where did you take it to there?—To where he lives.

4195. Where who lives?—Mr. Patrick Clarke.

4196. Who was that meal for?—I suppose it was for him.

Mr. Martin.—Don't mind what you suppose.

4197. Mr. Daly.—What was the meal for?—It was for distribution of relief.

4198. Who was the person who distributed this meal?—I know nothing about the distribution beyond the delivery.

4199. Who was in the habit of going into the store and giving it out to the people there? Tell the truth and don't be afraid of anybody. Do you know who was in the habit of giving that out to the people and weighing it in the store?—I don't know. I used to see the servant boys there in the act of weighing out the stuff.

4200. Did you ever see anyone but the servant boys?—Yes.

4201. Who did you see?—Mr. Clarke.

4202. Is it that gentleman there?—Yes; I would see him there.

4203. What is his name?—Patrick Clarke.

4204. Did you ever see William Clarke doing it?—No.

4205. Did you ever see anyone but the servant boys and Patrick Clarke, the guardian, giving out the meal?—No.

4206. How long were you bringing out meal from

DEPOSED
Mr. Faylet
King

the station at Fexford?—As near as I can tell, from between a fortnight to three weeks.

4297. Who paid you?—Patrick Clarke.

4298. This gentleman here?—Yes.

4299. Mr. Robinson.—Did I understand you today that you saw Patrick Clarke giving out the relief?—He used to be in the store, but I won't say I saw him in the act.

4300. Whose were the servant boys?—Mr. Clarke's.

4301. Mr. Robinson.—Was this meal brought to the store that is detached from Clarke's house?—Yes.

4302. Was it at Fexford station you got the meal?—Yes.

4303. Can you swear to whom it was directed?—I can not.

4304. All you know is that Mr. Clarke sent you there to deliver it at Bohola?—Yes.

4305. He was guardian of the division?—Yes.

4306. Did you ever see the relieving officer there when it was being distributed?—Yes, I did—McNulty.

4307. Did you see many people getting meal at that store?—Yes.

4308. Used you see a hundred there looking for relief?—Yes.

4309. You live in the division of Bohola yourself?—Yes.

4310. Yourself and your brothers are road contractors?—Yes.

James Brown sworn.

4323. Mr. Daly.—Where do you live?—At Roslevin.

4324. Who is your landlord?—Mr. Jordan.

4325. Is that the chairman?—Yes.

4326. Did you get relief this summer?—I did, but I worked for it.

4327. For whom did you work?—For Mr. Clarke.

4328. The guardian?—Yes.

4329. How many days did you work for him?—Nine days on the road, and after a week my son told me he worked.

4340. You worked nine days on the road?—Yes.

4341. Is your son here?—No.

4342. You do not know of your own knowledge if your son worked?—No, except what he told me. I will swear nothing but what I know myself.

4343. Mr. Robinson.—Your evidence is that you worked for nine days on the road?—Yes.

4344. And you got relief for it?—Yes.

4345. And you wanted it?—Yes; only I wanted it I would not go on the road.

4346. Were you at any of those little meetings held about this business?—No.

Mr James
Brown

Patrick McDonogh sworn.

4347. Mr. Daly.—You reside in Roslevin?—Yes.

4348. You were a tenant of Mr. Jordan's?—Yes.

4349. Did you get any of this relief money last summer?—I got some meal.

4350. Where did you get it?—In Bohola.

4351. Who from?—Different people that were attending there.

4352. Who?—Well, from one Kilgannon.

4353. Whose employment was he in?—I don't rightly know.

4354. Did you do any work for that meal?—Yes.

4355. Where?—Four or five days on the road and the remainder on the farm.

4356. And was it by those relief tickets you were paid for the work you did on the farm?—Yes, relief tickets.

4357. Mr. Robinson.—On what farm?—I do not know the name of it.

4358. But whose farm was it?—I suppose it was Clarke's farm.

4359. Do you know that it was his farm?—Yes.

4360. Mr. Daly.—Was it Clarke put you to work on it?—Yes.

4361. How many days did you work on it?—Twenty-five or twenty-six days.

4362. And you got paid for that by these relief tickets?—Yes.

4363. Mr. Robinson.—How many days altogether

were you on the road and the farm?—About thirty days.

4364. You were four days on the road and twenty-six days on the farm?—As near as I can go to it.

4365. What were you doing on the farm?—I was doing a good many things.

4366. What were you doing on the farm?—Feeding, and all sorts of things.

4367. Is that the farm which the road—on which the relief work was done—ran through?—It is not, sir.

4368. Was the fence you were working at between the farm and the road?—No, it was in the middle of the farm.

4369. Was any of it between the farm and the road?—Of course, it was inside of the road.

4370. On your oath, sir, was not the fence between the farm and the road bordering it?—It was on the farm and on the road.

4371. Then, why did you say at first that it was not?—I said it was on the farm.

4372. What brought you here?—Well, I was summoned.

4373. Had you any talk with anyone before you were summoned?—Yes.

4374. Were you talking to Mr. Sheridan?—No.

4375. You had no conversation with him?—No.

4376. Nor he with you?—No.

4377. Who spoke to you about this business?—It

Mr Patrick
McDonogh

Witness.
Mr Patrick
M'Dough.

was summoned about the place, in the neighbourhood.

4273. Did you know it was Sheridan got the summons for you?—No.

4279. You never spoke to him about this?—No.

4280. Were you at any of these meetings?—No.

4281. Were you over at Sheridan's house after Mass?—No.

4282. Did you sign any petition for him?—No, he never asked me.

4283. Do you know Dominick Jordan's house?—Yes.

4284. Were you ever there at a meeting?—No.

4285. At any time?—No.

4286. Were you there within the last fortnight for any purpose?—No.

4287. Within three weeks?—No.

4288. When did you first tell that you were working on Clarke's farm for this relief?—Well, I cannot tell you about that.

4289. Did you ever tell anyone?—That I was working on it?

4290. Yes?—A good many seen me working.

4291. Did you ever tell anyone you were working on Clarke's farm until you came here on summons?—Of course I did, I was asked.

4292. Who asked you?—Different people—my neighbours.

4293. No one but your neighbours?—Yes.

4294. Did they not see you working there?—Yes.

4295. Did Mr. Sheridan ever ask you if you were working on Clarke's farm?—No.

4296. And you never told him?—No.

4297. Now, tell me, were you in distress?—Yes.

4298. Was this the road fence you were working at?—No.

4299. Was any part of it along the road?—Yes.

4300. How much of it?—I never measured it.

4301. Was the greater part of it along the road?—No.

4302. Was all the fence along the road?—Yes, all the fence that I was working on—the new road they took to work.

4303. Let me try to understand you; you worked twenty-six days on the fence?—No, I did not.

Mr. Daly.—He worked four days.

Mr. Redington.—It was stated that he worked four days on the road.

4304. Mr. Robinson.—He stated he did "all sorts of things." What other things did you do?—I was planting at the potato crop.

4305. And did you get tickets for the work you did there?—I got tickets there.

4306. Mr. Mannion.—Did you ever do anything else there?—I cut a few weeds.

4307. Were you paid for that in tickets?—I don't

know whether I was or not; I cut weeds and planted potatoes there.

4308. Anything else?—No.

4309. I understood you to say that your principal work was fencing?—Yes, the principal work perhaps.

4310. Did you do fencing?—Yes.

4311. Was your principal work fencing?—Yes, fencing and moulding potatoes.

4312. How many days were you moulding potatoes?—Well, I did not take any entry.

4313. Was not the greater part of the twenty-six days taken up in fencing?—Yes, it was.

4314. But was not that the fence along the road where the relief work was being done?—It was not.

4315. Was it not in the middle of the farm?—Yes, part of it.

4316. Was part of it along the road?—Yes; the fence I was working on was along the road.

I understood you just now to say it was not.

4317. Mr. Redington.—You worked part of the time along the fence?—Yes, on the farm fence.

4318. Mr. Mannion.—Along the new road, or at least the road they were working on?—Yes, it was.

Mr. Daly.—Will you please ask him was he working on the side of the fence inside the farm or outside near the road.

4319. Mr. Redington.—Was this part of the fence along the new road on which you were working?—It was.

4320. The ordinary relief road?—Yes, sir.

4321. And for the remainder of the time was it on the fence of the same road you were working?—No.

4322. Mr. Mannion.—I am afraid you are not quite clear about this—were you not working on the fence along the relief road as I may call it?—Yes.

4323. And for the whole time?—No, not the whole time.

4324. On another road?—Yes, on the farm.

Mr. Mannion.—I must give it up.

4325. Mr. Daly.—You know what is called the relief road?—Yes.

4326. How long were you working on that?—Four days.

4327. Where did you work after the four days?—On the farm.

4328. At what?—Moulding potatoes and making fences.

4329. Where were the fences you were making? Were they along the road?—No.

4330. Mr. Mannion.—Was the principal part of your work along the farm fences?—Yes.

4331. And you were thirty days working altogether?—Yes.

4332. Was any part of the fencing you did anywhere upon the farm except along the relief road?—I did moulding potatoes as well.

4333. You won't give any other answer?—I give you my answer.

John M'Nicholas sworn.

Mr. John
M'Nicholas.

4334. Mr. Daly.—You live at Enlevin?—Yes.

4335. You are a tenant of Mr. Jordan's?—Yes.

4336. Did you get any of this relief work in the summer?—Yes.

4337. How many days did you work?—Six days altogether.

4338. Where did you work?—On the road.

4339. Did you work anywhere else?—That is all. My son worked.

4340. Mr. Mannion.—Is he here?—Yes.

4341. Mr. Daly.—To your knowledge did your son work on the road?—He told me so.

4342. Do you know if your son worked or not?—He told me he did.

4343. Did you see him?—No.

4344. Mr. Mannion.—You were in distress?—Yes.

4345. And you worked?—Yes.

4346. And got relief?—Yes.

Thady Pat. Conlan sworn.

4347. Mr. Dohy.—Do you live at Roslevin?—Yes.
 4348. Your father was tenant to Mr. Jordan?—Yes.
 4349. Did you work last summer on this relief work?—Yes.
 4350. How many days?—Eighteen days.
 4351. Where did you work?—Four days—making fences.
 4352. And where did you spend the remaining portion of the time?—Two days with a horse and a cart gravelling Mr. Clarke's yard.
 4353. Well, what else?—I was eight days on the road.
 4354. What road?—On the new road.
 4355. And where else?—Four days working at the potatoes.
 4356. Did you see others working there at the same time?—I did.
 4357. How many did you see?—There was eleven working along with me.
 4358. Where had you to be paid?—From John McNulty's.

4359. Did you ever see any of these men getting relief tickets?—Yes.
 4360. Used you get relief tickets for your work?—Yes.
 4361. And you saw the others getting it?—Yes.
 4362. Mr. Fitzmaurice.—Were you paid in tickets for all the work you did there?—I got nothing for three days I worked there.
 4363. Mr. Munnion.—I am afraid we are very mixed. You got nothing for three days you worked on the farm?—No.
 4364. How many days were you on the road?—Eight days. Taking stones off the farm was also done.
 4365. Were these stones brought out and put on the road?—I throw them on the road.
 4366. Of the eighteen days work were there three you got no payment for?—Yes.
 4367. How many days were you working gravelling the yard?—Three days.
 4368. How were you paid?—By ticket. They stopped two days at first and one day afterwards.
 4369. Why?—I do not know.

INTERVIEW.
 Mr. Thady Pat. Conlan.

Michael McNicholas sworn.

4370. Mr. Dohy.—Who is your father's landlord?—Mr. Thaffe.
 4371. Were you working on these relief works?—Yes, sir.
 4372. How many days?—Five days.
 4373. What were you doing?—Fencing on the land two and a half days, and another half day working on the farm.

4374. And the other two days?—On the road.
 4375. Mr. Munnion.—This fence, was it on the roadside?—Yes.
 4376. Which side of the road were you working?—The road side.
 4377. What else were you doing besides fencing?—Cleaning the drain.

Mr. Michael McNicholas.

Daniel McGowan sworn.

4378. Mr. Dohy.—You live at Bohola?—Yes.
 4379. Did you work on the relief works?—Yes.
 4380. How many days?—Well, about twenty days or twenty-one.
 4381. Where did you work?—I worked on the road making fences that were tumbled down on the new road.
 4382. Where else?—No place else.
 4383. You did not work on the farm at all?—No.
 4384. Mr. Munnion.—Did anyone visit you lately?—No.
 4385. Were any threats used towards you?—No.
 4386. Did anyone ask you to swear you were working on Clarke's farm?—No, but some were proving I was.
 4387. But you were not?—No.

4388. But did any one say it was safer for you to swear you were?—It might be fun.
 4389. Well, did anyone make the joking observation that the roof might be burned over you if you did not swear you were working for Clarke?—No, it was only a joke if they were saying it.
 4390. But did any of them by way of joke say the house would be burned over your head?—No, but it was only in fun they would say I was working on the farm. At the time I got that meal I had nothing to do but go into the warehouse but for it.
 4391. Did the people say that if you did not come in and swear you were working with Clarke it would be worse for you?—Well, they had so much to say that I would not give heed to them.
 4392. Mr. Dohy.—Have you a son?—No.

Mr. Daniel McGowan.

John McGowan sworn.

4393. Mr. Dohy.—You live at Bohola?—Yes.
 4394. How many days were you on the relief works last summer?—I am no scholar. I never took account of it, but I believe twenty-one days.
 4395. Have you a son?—Yes.
 4396. Was he on the works?—Yes.
 4397. Did you both work together?—No.
 4398. Where did you work?—On the new works.
 4399. You were never off them?—No.
 4400. Where did your son work?—On the same line he told me.
 4401. Mr. Munnion.—You wanted the relief?—Yes.

4402. And you got it?—Yes.
 4403. Were there any little threats held out to you—were you told to prove you worked on Clarke's land?—No, I never worked on his land.
 4404. Did anyone ever tell you this rate would be put on you for fifteen years?—Yes.
 4405. Who told you?—Myself alone.
 4406. Oh, come now. Do you ever go to Mass at Bohola?—Indeed I do.
 4407. Did you ever go to a little meeting at Mrs. Sheridan's?—No, never.

Mr. John McGowan.

Michael Lavelle sworn.

—
Mr. Michael
Lavelle

4609. Mr. Daly.—Were you on the relief works last summer?—I was.
4610. How many days were you on the relief works?—Twenty-three days.
4611. Where did you work during those twenty-three days?—Twenty-one on the road and two on the land.
4612. How many more little boys were working on the farm with you?—Four more.
4613. Whose land was it?—Mr. Clarke's.
4614. How were you all paid?—They got a ticket.
4615. Mr. Robinson.—How were you paid?—I was to get a ticket.

Catherine O'Donnell sworn.

Mr. Catherine
O'Donnell.

4621. Mr. Daly.—You are a widow?—Yes.
4622. Where do you live?—At Knockmany.
4623. Now, do you recollect getting a relief ticket from anybody?—Yes.
4624. Who did you get the relief ticket from?—John O'Connor.
4625. Of the town?—No, of Bohola.
4626. When you got the relief ticket, who did you take it to?—William Carey.
4627. When you brought it to him what did he say?—There was a lot of women there, and they all had to come out, and I asked why did they come out without getting their value, and they said—
Mr. Massieu.—I object to what they said.
4628. Mr. Daly.—Had you a conversation with Mr. Carey at all?—No. All our tickets were directed to him, and we got no staff at all.
4629. Where did you get relief on your ticket?—At Patrick Clarke's, of Bohola.

4616. Mr. Massieu.—You worked twenty-one days on the road and two on the farm?—Yes.
4617. Can you swear that you got any ticket for the two days?—No.
4618. Mr. Redington.—Were you paid anything for those two days?—No.
4619. Are you owed any money for those two days?—There was no relief given for those days.
4620. Mr. Daly.—Did you not get a ticket for the two days you were on the farm?—No.

4630. Where did you get it?—We will call it a room.
4631. Was it in the shop?—No, it was some distance from it.
4632. Mr. Massieu.—Is it in a store?—We never heard it called only a room.
4633. Did you want relief?—Yes, and very little of it I got.
4634. You went to the relieving officer?—Yes.
4635. And got a ticket for the relief?—Yes.
4636. And went to Clarke's and got the meal?—Yes.
4637. What was on the ticket?—Oh, very little, in truth.
4638. Mr. Redington.—What did you get?—I got six stone at first.
4639. Who gave it to you?—Patrick Clarke.
4640. Did he hand it to you?—Yes, and weighed it himself and the boy.
4641. Patrick Clarke, the guardian?—Yes.

Maria Mullis sworn.

Mr. Maria
Mullis.

4642. Mr. Daly.—Do you live in Bohola division?—Yes.
4643. Who is your landlord?—I have no land at all.
4644. Were you on the relief works last summer?—Yes, four days.
4645. For whom did you work?—Well, John O'Connor set me on.
4646. Where did you work?—On the road.
4647. How many days were you working on the relief works?—That is all, except that I was working for John O'Connor himself.
4648. Well, how were you paid by John O'Connor?—Nothing, except by tickets.
4649. How many days were you working for him?—About twenty days.
4650. And you were four on the road?—Yes.
4651. And you were paid for all this by tickets?—Yes.
4652. Mr. Massieu.—What work were you engaged on?—Cutting turf.
4653. You were in great distress?—Indeed I was.
4654. Did O'Connor put you the first four days on the road?—He did.
4655. Did you complain that you were too weak

and not able to work on the road, as long as there was other work for you?—Yes.
4656. As soon as the work on the road was exhausted, were you not still in distress?—I was.
4657. And had you not to be relieved and kept alive by meal, after the work on the road was over?—Yes.
4658. Would you not have starved if you did not get it?—I was in need of it.
4659. Had you anything to depend on but the meal?—My day's wages.
4660. But I thought you were depending on the meal?—That's what I mean. I got nothing but the meal.
4661. And after the work was over you worked for O'Connor, you say?—Yes; I was not put on any other road.
4662. Mr. Redington.—What did you do for O'Connor?—I cut turf.
4663. And how were you paid?—By tickets.
4664. Mr. Massieu.—Now, are you sure you worked for John O'Connor?—Yes, I am, at Bally Hill bog.
4665. Are you aware that he has not got a bog?—I am not. I only know he sent me there to work for him.

Thomas Byrne sworn.

Mr. Thomas
Byrne.

4666. Mr. Daly.—Where do you live?—At Knockmany.
4667. How many days were you working on the relief works?—A fortnight altogether.
4668. How were you working?—I worked a week with John O'Connor, and the rest on the road.
4669. How were you paid for your seven days?—I was not paid at all.

4670. Well, what did you get?—I got relief.
4671. Do you mean tickets?—Yes, tickets.
4672. Those tickets that you got—where did you get meal for them?—At Clarke's, sir.
4673. Who was in the habit of giving you the meal?—Well, Patrick Clarke. I will tell the truth.
4674. Is it that gentleman there?—Yes, he got

me one turn or two, and his brother William gave me the rest.

4675. Mr. Mannion.—How many turns did you get altogether?—I don't know.

4676. Did you get twenty?—I did not.

4677. Did you get ten?—No.

4678. Did you get five?—Well, I did not count them up.

4679. Can you even guess?—I could not tell.

4680. Was it the first week you were working on the road?—Yes.

4681. Until the work was stopped?—Yes.

4682. Was it for O'Connor or his sister you were working after that?—For O'Connor.

4683. How much do you owe O'Connor's sister for shop goods?—Nothing.

4684. Do you swear that?—Yes.

4685. Did you ever owe her anything?—No.

4686. You swear that?—I do.

4687. And is everything else you state as true as that?—Yes.

4688. Mr. Daly.—Does Mr. O'Connor live in the same house with his sister?—Yes.

4689. And for the time you worked what were you paid?—Nothing.

4690. What did you get?—Meal.

4691. It was a ticket you got?—Yes, and the meal then.

4692. A ticket on Clarke's?—Yes.

4693. For working on O'Connor's land?—Yes.

4694. Mr. Mannion.—How much meal did you get altogether?—I can't say.

4695. Did you go three times to Clarke's?—Yes.

4696. Did you go six times?—I don't know that.

4697. And for a fortnight's work did you only get meal five times?—I know I never got anything but meal.

4698. Will you swear that the meal was not all given to you for the work done on the road?—He told me it was for the work I done.

4699. Can you swear that the meal you got was not for the work done on the road?—I cannot swear that, I can only swear I got the meal.

4700. Mr. Sedington.—When did you get the meal for working on the road?—The same week.

4701. Did you get all the meal before you went to work for O'Connor?—Yes.

4702. Do you understand? Did you get more meal after you worked at O'Connor's?—No, I don't think so, but I was getting it during the time I worked.

4703. Mr. Daly.—That is not quite clear. How many stens of meal did you get altogether?—Two cwt. and a half.

4704. Did you get four?—Yes.

4705. How much?—Four stens.

4706. Did you get any tea?—Yes, one oz. and one lb. of sugar.

4707. Do you know how long you worked on the road?—A fortnight altogether on the farm.

4708. Mr. Mannion.—For O'Connor?—Yes, sir.

4709. And how often did you receive relief?—I cannot say.

4710. Do you know for how many days you received it at a time?—No.

Patrick Burke sworn.

4711. Mr. Daly.—Where do you live?—At Bohola.

4712. Did you work at this relief work?—Yes, I was three days at it.

4713. Did you get a ticket?—Yes.

4714. What was the value of it?—£s. 6d.

4715. Where did you go to get the stuff?—To Mr. Clarke's.

4716. Did he decline to give you any stuff?—Well, I don't say he did, but we had some drink on the ticket.

4717. What did he give you on the ticket?—He gave me two stens of yellow meal.

4718. And for the remainder?—The remainder was a drink.

4719. Was that given to you by the guardian?—Yes, said O'Connor.

4720. Do you mean both you and he had a drink for it?—Yes.

4721. Mr. Mannion.—When did you first tell this to anyone?—Well, I did not tell it not before four days ago.

4722. Who did you tell it to?—To a mate of mine.

4723. Who is the mate?—Johnny Roche.

4724. Did you tell it to Mr. Sheridan?—Well, of course.

4725. When did you tell him?—Yesterday.

4726. Were you served with a summons at that time?—No.

4727. Where did you tell him?—At his own house.

4728. Who asked you to go there?—No one but himself.

4729. Was there a meeting?—Not as I know on.

4730. How many people were there when you went?—I could not tell.

4731. Were there 20?—Well I do not know the exact number.

4732. Were you at any meetings in his house before?—Not as I know on.

4733. Were you at any meetings there at night?—No.

4734. Did you contribute anything towards getting up this case—did you pay any money to anyone?—I do not mean to Mr. Daly, of course?—

Mr. Robinson.—I do not know that this can have anything to do with the question before us.

Mr. Mannion.—Well, perhaps not, sir. I was merely trying to show that this was a combination, and I won't press the question. (To witness).—You say you got a drink?—Yes.

4735. How much?—Two quarts.

4736. Of what?—Ale.

4737. Mr. Sedington.—How much land have you got?—Four acres.

4738. Have you any cows?—A cow and a calf.

4739. Have you a horse?—No, only an ass.

4740. Have you any sheep?—No sheep, sir.

4741. Were you destitute at the time you got this relief?—Well I was, in a manner, but then I could do without it.

4742. Mr. Mannion.—Just tell me, were you, as a matter of fact, destitute, or could you have done without this relief?—Yes I could.

4743. And do you think it an honest thing to have gone in and taken this relief when you could have done without it?—There was richer than me did it.

4744. You thought it honest?—Yes, with richer nor me doing the same.

4745. Were you told this rate would be spread over fifteen years, and put on the people to pay for that time?—Yes.

4746. And that unless the people came in and proved that the relief was badly given out they would have to pay it for fifteen years?—I did hear that.

4747. And only you heard that you would not be here?—I would be here, of course.

4748. Why?—Because it was given to people that could do without it, and was not given to people who wanted it badly.

4749. You could have done without it?—Yes.

4750. And being able to do without it, and yet taking it, you were such an honest fellow that you would have come here to protest against the abuse of the relief?—It was just to give evidence I came.

4751. Mr. Daly.—Now you stated that you got some ale as portion of your relief ticket?—Yes.

4752. Who did you drink it with?—Me and John O'Connor.

WITNESSES.

Mr. Thomas Byrne.

Mr Patrick Burke.

Switzerland.
Mr. Patrick
Duffy.

4753. No one else?—No one.
4754. Mr. Redington.—Where did you get this meal and ale?—In the shop.
4755. In the shop?—Yes, where I got the meal; in the tap-room.
4756. Is the tap-room off the shop?—It is attached to it.
4757. Mr. Monahan.—In that the store?—It is what I reckon the tap-room.
4758. Was it filled with meal at the time?—No, but there were a good many bags filled with meal there.

4759. Was there anything but meal there?—There was yellow meal and flour and oatmeal.
4760. Anything else?—No, not in that store.
4761. And you got the meal in that "store"?—Yes.
4762. And you got the ale in the shop?—No, I went through the shop to the tap-room, and came back to the shop. There is just a door between them.
4763. Mr. Redington.—Were there people drinking when you were there?—No, but they generally do drink there.

Mrs. Mulligan sworn.

Mrs.
Mulligan.

4764. Mr. Daly.—You are a married woman?—Yes.
4765. Did your husband work on the relief works this summer?—No.
4766. Who did?—My little girl.
4767. What work did she do?—She was working at the road, and two days at John Connor's.
4768. Did John Connor go to you?—Yes, and demanded her of me.
4769. And did you send her to work?—Yes.
4770. How was she paid for that—what kind of

payment did she get?—I do not recollect anything about it.
4771. Do you recollect giving him anything?—I give him anything! Why I was the poorest person, and I got a ticket. I saw the committee men and I got a second ticket, and brought it to the relieving officer, O'Connor, and in a week after I got some meal, and there was every sort of delay, and at one time I had to wait a fortnight.
4772. Did you give him anything?—No; I had not a pound's worth in the world to give him anything.

Mrs. Higgins sworn.

Mrs. Higgins.

4773. Mr. Daly.—Do you recollect applying for relief?—I do, well.
4774. Who did you apply to?—To John Connor. My little girl worked three days on the road and he would not give me anything for those weeks' after, and I said I wanted it as much as anyone.
4775. Did you bring him anything as a present?—I did.
4776. What did you bring?—Ah, what do you think I ought to bring?
4777. As a matter of fact, what did you bring?—I did you bring any present to John Connor?—Don't you know it is little I have to bring anyone.
4778. Yes, but did you bring any present to the house?—What present?
4779. Did you bring any letter?—Oh, it is very little I would get for the better I brought. Sure you know that well.

4780. Now, can't you be quiet, and answer the questions I put to you. How many rolls of butter did you bring?—Well, if I brought him a couple it is little I would get for it.
4781. How much did you bring?—I could not tell. John Connor knew nothing about that.
4782. Mr. Monahan.—John Connor knew nothing about that?—No, the boy did not.
4783. You say your daughter worked three days on the road?—Yes.
4784. And what else?—And a day with himself on the bog.
4785. And Connor would not give anything until she worked the three days?—She worked on the road as soon as anyone went on it.
4786. You and she were in distress?—Yes.
4787. And she worked?—Yes.
4788. And you got relief?—Yes.

Patrick Clarke P.L.O. sworn.

Mr. Patrick
Clarke, P.L.O.

4789. Mr. Monahan.—You are a member of the Board of Guardians, and reside at Bohola?—Yes.
4790. Was there distress in your division in July or June?—Yes. Not as much perhaps as in other divisions.
4791. Did you do all you could as a guardian of the poor to have this relief distributed in the best manner possible?—Yes; I did everything in my power.
4792. Did you visit many of the houses of the people before the relief was distributed?—Yes; I sent the relieving officer and accompanied him to visit the different places.
4793. Did you ever advise or suggest that relief should be given to any persons except those who deserved it?—No, I did not.
4794. And was the relief distributed fairly?—Yes, quite fairly.
4795. Now, there are charges here that you had people working on your land. There was a man who swore he was making a fence for you along the new road and was paid by relief ticket?—The road on which they worked is a road which is of advantage to about 300 people; 300 families who would have no approach to the public road except through our farm, and in that sense of course it is on our farm. There is nothing even in the shape of a fence, and I gave

them the use of the road, and of course I got them to make the fence, but it was only six or ten perches through the best of our land.
4796. Do you think there was any abuse in the way the relief was administered in your division?—Every care was taken to prevent it, and there can only have been very few cases indeed. Some may have got relief who did not require it as badly as others.
4797. How many people did this road accommodate?—I think about 400 or 500.
4798. Is it of much use to yourself?—A horse and cart of ours never went up that since it was made.
4799. Is there any comparison as between the advantage it is to you and the benefit to the public?—No; there is really no advantage to us at all worth speaking of.
4800. There was £165 altogether expended on your division?—Yes.
4801. Do you think it was absolutely necessary to spend that money in your division to relieve the distress there?—Yes; it was one of the smallest sums spent in the Swinford Union.
4802. Did you hear any complaints about the way in which this money was expended until recently?—No; except of people not getting enough and of others getting too much.

4803. Did you hear any public or general complaints of the way in which the relief was given?—No; not until lately.

4804. I believe there was a good deal of trouble given by Mr. Sheridan?—Yes.

4805. He was in the habit of posting notices on the chapel gates as to rates and so on?—Yes.

4806. Do you know that it was extensively circulated that the money he alleged would be imposed would be payable for the next 15 years?—Yes; and when I reasoned with the people they would not listen to me.

4807. Now, as far as you could make out was there any abuse in the administration of the relief?—No.

4808. Mr. Daly.—What business were you brought up to?—General business and farming.

4809. That is only one—what else?—Cattle dealing.

4810. Shopping?—I never knew anything about shopping.

4811. Do you attend behind the counter at home?—No.

4812. Does your brother?—No.

4813. Is your name Patrick?—Yes.

4814. Are you postmaster at Bohola?—No.

4815. Have you a licence in your own name?—No.

4816. Who has the licence?—My father.

4817. Who has the post office?—My father.

Mr. Maxwell.—Perhaps you are not aware, Mr. Daly, that in some cases it is permissible to hold the two occupations.

4818. Mr. Daly.—Surely, the contractor, is your uncle?—Yes.

4819. Where does he live?—At Bohola.

4820. And this tap room or store is where the meal was all put into?—Yes.

4821. It is attached to your father's house?—Yes.

4822. It is used as a general room attached to the shop?—No.

4823. When was it built?—Seven or eight years ago.

4824. Was it used as a tap room?—When stuff comes it is put into it.

4825. Is it used as a drinking room?—I often saw people drinking in it, but generally people go upstairs.

4826. Mr. Beffington.—It is at the back of the shop?—Yes.

4827. And in connexion with the shop?—There is a door in from the shop leading to it.

4828. Mr. Daly.—Now, I believe that up to the distribution of this relief yourself and Mr. Sheridan were very good friends?—No, not up to the distribution.

4829. Were you up to last April?—Yes; we were intimate, but not exactly good friends.

4830. Was he instrumental in getting you returned as a guardian?—No; he was a guardian himself, and my father put him out.

4831. You say this new road did not do you any service?—Not a bit.

4832. Had not the people who used it a right to use that way through your farm?—No, except that I never stopped them.

4833. How many yards beyond your farm did you extend the road?—Not half a mile.

4834. Was it more than 300 yards?—Yes.

Thady Pat Conlan recalled.

4835a. Mr. Beffington.—Were you at work gravelling Mr. Clarke's yard?—Yes.

4837. Were you paid by relief tickets?—I was.

4838. How long were you gravelling it?—Two days.

4838a. Mr. Daly.—Did Mr. Clarke assist you there in the yard, while you were working?—Well, he was assisting in dividing the meal.

4838b. Did you see him in the yard?—No, it was his brother William I saw there.

4839. Mr. Maxwell.—What is the size of the

4835. You said, I think, that you did all you could to have this relief fairly distributed?—Yes.

4836. Did any of these men work on your farm?—There are men here that worked on the farm.

4837. Did any of the men examined here work on the farm?—I don't recollect if they did.

4838. Was any man who worked on your farm paid by relief tickets?—No.

4839. Then it was false when Patrick McDonagh swore that he did work on your farm; did he perjure himself?—I don't like to say that, but I don't remember it.

4840. Did Michael McNicholas work on your farm?—No.

4841. Nor McDonagh?—No.

4842. How do you get your work done?—By labouring men; I paid between £60 and £70 for labour this year.

4843. Did Mr. Sheridan oppose you with reference to some swears?—Yes; he put it out that there was £150 to be paid on them, and instead of that it was only 50s.

4844. Mr. Maxwell.—Those swears, were they not for the village of Bohola?—Yes.

4845a. Mr. Beffington.—Did Thady Pat Conlan ever work for you?—No.

4846. Did anyone work gravelling your yard?—No, but they gravelled by the road; the house is ten yards from the public road.

4846a. Did they gravel any part of your yard?—No; there were a couple of loads put down at the back, and it is my impression that when they gravelled the road they may also have gravelled the yard.

4847. Do you not know was the yard gravelled?—It was.

4847a. Did you pay for it out of your own pocket?—Of that I am not sure. I know it was my own horse carried the gravel. I don't know that I paid for any gravelling that was done in the yard.

4848. Was anyman paid for gravelling your yard?—I am not clear about that. If it was one of my men he was paid; but the yard is just beside the road.

4849. Was your horse and cart at work in the gravelling of that road?—Yes, a bit of it.

4850. Who led the horse?—One of the men that were on the relief work.

4851. Is not that the same horse and cart that must have been engaged when your yard was gravelled?—Yes.

4852. Are you sure that it was one of your own men?—No, I am not sure whether it was one of my labouring men or whether it was one of the relief work men.

4853. The horse was at work during the gravelling of the road?—Yes.

4854. Who was leading it?—It might be some of my own boys. I know there is a short bit of road there close to the house which was gravelled.

4855. Could a man be by any possibility very long, could he be two days gravelling the yard?—No, certainly not, for where they were getting the gravel was not forty or fifty yards away.

4856. Could it have taken more than two hours?—I would say about half a day.

yard—is it the size of this room?—Well, yes, about three times the size of the room.

4857. How far is the gravel pit?—About sixty yards.

4858. What hour used you go to work?—At about half past eight or may be nine.

4859. During these two days, did you do any work on the roads?—No.

4860. You lifted sand out of the pit?—Yes.

4861. Was that sand put on the roads?—Some of it was.

Witness,
Mr. Patrick
Clarke.

Thady Pat
Conlan.

Switzerland
Theby Pat.
Cooks

4865. Who raised the gravel?—There were two men raising it.
4866. Mr. Musson.—How many carts full did you bring into Mr. Clarke's yard?—I could not say.
4867. Did you bring twenty?—Yes.
4867a. And do I understand you to say that you took two days to gravel a yard three times the size of this room?—Yes, but I threw three cart loads outside the door.
4868. On the road that led to the public road?—Yes, the two last carts.

Patrick Clarke, R.O., recalled.

Mr Patrick
Clarke, R.O.

4871. Mr. Robinson.—Do you know a man named McNulty who has been mentioned?—Yes.
4872. Was he in your employment?—No. He cut two fields of meadow by task.
4873. That is all he ever did?—Yes.
4874. Mr. Doherty.—Is not McNulty constantly in your employment?—No, not for my father, my brother, or myself, except that he cut two fields of meadow and spent a couple of days making stacks in the bogland.

4869. Portion of the time was devoted to the public work?—No, sir; of course some of the gravel was used on the public road.

4870. It is not easy to understand you. You say you threw some of the gravel outside the door—that, I presume, is outside the door leading to the yard?—Yes.

4870a. On the public road?—Yes.

4870b. And some of the gravel was used on Clarke's yard?—Yes.

William Kavanagh, R.O., sworn.

Mr. William
Kavanagh,
R.O.

4878. Mr. Musson.—Are you a guardian of this union?—Yes.
4879. For what division?—Kilbilly.
4879a. Do you know the distance of Bohola and Toomevanagh?—Yes, I know Toomevanagh very well.
4880. Do you know the farm of Clarke's through which the road runs?—Yes.
4881. And do you know the road itself?—Yes.
4882. Is that road an accommodation to the people?—It is very much so, to the Toomevanagh tenants.
4883. How many people does it accommodate?—I would say about 300.
4884. Do you know of your own knowledge whether it is a good work, and one on which the money for the relief of the people was well spent?—Yes, it was very well spent.
4885. Do you know anything about the distribution of the relief?—Not about Bohola.
4886. Do you know the tenants on the property who were relieved?—Yes, on the Taaffe estate.
4887. They are I believe exceedingly poor?—Yes. They never pay a penny of rent.

4888. I suppose they have not got it to pay?—No indeed they have not.

4889. And next to giving them the land for nothing, nothing could be better than giving them something to eat.

4890. Do you know if this road that has been spoken of was judiciously laid out?—Yes.

4891. Mr. Doherty.—Was it not the bed of an old river?—No, but beside the river.

4892. Was the road any use to the Clarks?—I might almost say not. Certainly not much.

4893. Do you know that the tenants had the right to use this pathway?—I never knew. I never knew that it was a right.

4894. But it was used?—Yes.

4894a. Did any of the men requiring relief work on Clarke's farm?—I do not know.

4895. This fence that has been spoken of was it useful?—Yes, it was necessary. No man would allow a road there without a fence.

4896. It is a new fence altogether?—Yes.

4896a. How many yards did the road extend beyond Clarke's farm?—I don't know; I could not say. It goes up through Toomevanagh.

4897. Was it carried out in its entirety?—No, it would take a good deal of money to do that.

John B. O'Connor, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Mr. John B.
O'Connor.

4898. Mr. Musson.—You were appointed an extra relieving officer?—Yes.
4899. For the division of Bohola?—Yes.
4900. You live in the village of Bohola?—Yes.
4901. With your sister?—My sister and father.
4902. Now did you exercise the utmost care in the distribution of this relief?—Yes.
4903. And as far as you could, did you see that it was given to destitute people and to none others?—Yes, as far as I could. Every one was taken to prevent abuse.
4904. It is stated that you had two or three of those persons working for you on your land—Have you any land?—No.
4905. Have you a bog?—No.
4906. Your sister has some land?—Yes.
4907. And some bog?—It is common.
4908. Did you ever employ any of those people working under the Relief Act, to work on your farm or on this common land?—No. I remember no such thing.

4899. Did you as a matter of fact send any of the men to work there and pay them with relief tickets?—Never.

4900. It was alleged that a man who got a relief ticket from you under this Act got portion of it in the shape of drink, and that he drank it with you?—I never was by when stuff was got on a ticket—I was never present at the weighing out of meal—I gave the tickets and directed them to go to William Clarke. If I got drink there I paid for it.

4901. Did you drink a share of two quarts of ale which was given on a relief ticket?—No, I never saw it. I do not know he paid for it or anything about it.

4902. Have you any recollection of drinking with a man who got drink on a ticket?—No. I used to give the tickets in our own house, and on the roads, and my sister has a public-house—so I don't know what a man may have got.

4903. Mr. Robinson.—Were you ever present in Mr. Clarke's public-house, when a man presented a ticket on which he got part of the relief in meal and

part in drink, which he and you consumed?—No; but I saw the man in Clarke's public-house, and he had a quart of ale and I had a quart.

4916. And you paid for yours?—Yes, I paid for mine.

4917. Do you know if his quart of ale was got on a ticket?—No.

4918. Mr. Meenan.—There were two women examined, but they did not prove anything. There was a suggestion however that you got rolls of butter or something in the shape of bribes for giving relief—is there any truth in that?—None whatever.

4919. Mr. Daly.—Do you know John Roche in the same townland—a next door neighbour to Burke who was examined?—Yes.

4920. Had you ever a drink with him?—I might.

4921. Did Tom Byrne cut turf for you?—We cut turf in two days and—

4922. Did you ever ask him or any man to cut turf for you and pay him by relief tickets?—No.

4923. Would it be true if he swore it?—No; I don't care what he swears.

4924. Mr. Meenan.—Was any man who worked for you paid by relief tickets?—No.

4925. Mr. Bealings.—How long did Byrne work on the roads?—I can't say. I gave him work there when the roads were going on.

4926. Did you ever give him anything after the work on the roads ceased?—Yes.

4927. What for?—Because he was destitute.

4928. Not for work done?—No.

4929. You knew Patrick Burke?—Yes.

4930. Did you give him a ticket?—He was working on the roads.

4931. Did you consider him destitute?—Well, I don't know, sir, I could not swear. He might have a cow.

4932. Has he a cow and a donkey?—I could not tell his means.

4933. Did you make any inquiry?—Yes. In making inquiries in a case like that they would never tell you exactly what they had or had not.

4934. Did you know the man?—Yes.

4935. Did you know his means?—I was never in his house.

4936. Did you go to his house to see his condition?—No.

4937. Did you go to any of their houses to see the condition of those who applied for relief?—I went to several houses.

4938. How many?—Probably fifty or sixty.

4939. But not to this man's house?—Well, any way, I do not remember.

4940. You heard him swear that he was not destitute?—I could not say.

4941. But did you not think it was your duty to inquire into the circumstances of those men. Did you make no inquiry?—Well, he did not get much relief.

4942. He got some?—Yes.

4943. As a rule, how did you select people for the work?—I went to the roads and the guardians accompanied me, and we chose out the destitute people. They would all say they were destitute whether they are or not.

4944. Were you contented with their statement?

—Yes; and then struck out those cases that were not destitute.

4945. Did you make inquiries in many cases?—Yes.

4946. What proportion of cases?—I could not exactly say.

4947. Who put them on the roads?—Sometimes myself—sometimes the gangers.

4948. Were the gangers people you named yourself?—People I picked out who were destitute.

4949. And the gangers who were themselves destitute put people on the roads?—Yes; and they would give me a list.

4950. These cases the gangers put on, did you bring before the Board of Guardians?—Yes; on every Tuesday all the cases came before the guardians who initiated them. The local guardians had a knowledge of the people.

4951. Did you make any statement as to those people put on the roads by the gangers?—

4952. Did you make any statement as to their circumstances?—Yes.

4953. How could you make a statement about the circumstances of people whose houses you did not visit?—Merely from information I got from the persons who put them on the roads.

4954. You told the guardians what the gangers told you?—Yes.

4955. What is your division?—Bohola.

4956. It did not strike you that Patrick Burke was a man who was not destitute?—No; or he would not have got relief.

4957. Did his appearance not suggest to you that he was not destitute?—

4958. You had, I see, 585 cases on your list the first week?—Yes.

4959. Did you strike any off the second week?—Yes; I believe so. The appointment was on the 4th of May, and I believe the second week there was a reduction in the numbers.

4960. Were there more people working the week ending the 8th of May, than the week ending the 15th of May?—Well, I don't know.

4961. There were 585 the first week, and 23 the second week?—Oh, yes, then 23 were not working at all.

4962. Well, they went on again the third week, and the fourth week the number was 286?—Yes.

4963. How did the difference in the numbers occur?—Some were struck off who were not proper for relief.

4964. Well, the 5th week it went up to 487; how was that?—There was an increase of persons on.

4965. Clearly—and next week it went up to 690?—They were all destitute, or nearly all.

4966. After that it came down to 477?—Yes.

4967. Can you give me any explanation of the reduction between the 12th and 19th—from 690 to 477?—The only reason I can give is that, about the 31st May, the people were going away to England.

4968. And they were gone before the 12th of June?—Yes, about that.

4969. Therefore, less relief was required than in June?—Yes, and there were girls and others working on the roads, and Father Grady did not wish to have girls working on the roads, and they were struck off.

Mark Lavin's case.

4970. Mr. Daly.—Did you work on these relief works last summer?—Yes.

4971. Where?—At Ballylack.

4972. Mr. Stanton is the guardian for that division?—Yes.

4973. Who is the contractor?—I don't know.

4974. Did you get a ticket for relief?—Yes.

4975. Where did you get the stuff for it?—In Miss Stanton's.

4976. Who is she?—A sister of Mr. Anthony Mark Lavin, Stanton.

4977. She lives with her brother?—Yes, they live there together.

4978. Where did you work?—At Ardgallick, in the Ballylack quarter.

4979. What were you doing?—Making roads.

4980. Mr. Meenan.—You were destitute and wanted this relief?—Well, I would not say against it.

Q

Witnesses.
Mark Lavin.

4976. Did you want it?—Yes, but still in all I would do without it if I did not get it.
4977. Are you willing to pay for what you got?—Yes, but I worked hard for it.
4978. Do you know that Mr. Stanton has one house, and his sister another?—I don't know anything about that.
4979. You did your work, and got the meal?—Yes.
4980. What induced you to come here to-day, wasting your time, and wasting other people's?—There are a good many wasting their time.
4981. Mr. *Redington*.—Who gave you the ticket for the relief?—The brother of a man that was a gangster there.
4982. Who signed it?—Well, upon my word I could not say.
4983. Can you read it?—A little.

4976. Did you ever look at the ticket?—Yes.
4977. What name did you see on it?—I could not say.
4978. What was the order for?—4s. 6d. for one week.
4979. You don't know who signed it?—No, I cannot say.
4980. How many tickets did you get all the time?—Only two.
4981. What were they for?—Work.
4982. Did you get any other ticket except those two?—Yes.
4983. What for?—For relief; it was 3s.
4984. Did you do work for that?—No.
4985. How many tickets did you get altogether?—I could not exactly swear.
4986. And you can't say who signed them?—No.

Patrick M'Nicholas sworn.

Patrick M'Nicholas.

4986. Mr. *Daly*.—Where do you reside?—At Leenacrow.
4987. Did you work on the relief works?—Yes.
4988. Did you work on the relief works?—Yes.
4989. Who gave you your tickets?—Dan Connor.
4990. Not of Irbitown?—No.
4991. Where did you work for those tickets?—On Mr. Stanton's land.
4992. How many days were you working on his farm?—One day.
4993. How were you paid?—I got a ticket.
4994. The remainder of the time where did you work?—I did not work at all.
4995. You only worked one day?—Yes.
4996. What kind of stuff did you get?—A stone of flour.
4997. Where did you get it?—From Mr. Stanton.
4998. The guardian?—Yes.
4999. Do you know what house he lives in?
5000. Mr. *Nicholas*.—Do you know that there are two houses there?—I can't tell that exactly; perhaps there is.
5001. Can you tell us is not one of those houses occupied by a sister of his?—I do not know about that.
5002. Can you say that it was not in his sister's house you got this?—No, I can't.
5003. What is your father's name?—Martin M'Nicholas.
5004. Did he want relief?—He could do without it.
5005. Who told you to come here to-day to give evidence?—No one.
5006. How many are there in family?—Six.
5007. Were they all here at the time?—No.
5008. Was he at home?—No, he was in England.
5009. How long was he in England before you got this relief?—I could not say.
5010. Was he a month?—Yes.
5011. Two?—About three months.

5012. How much money did he send home?—I could not say.
5013. Did he send any?—Yes.
5014. Did he send 2s?—Can't say.
5015. Did he send 2s at all?—I could not say.
5016. Will you swear he sent 2s?—Yes.
5017. Were you hungry in that house?—Yes.
5018. Had any of your brothers or sisters anything to eat?—Yes.
5019. What?—Potatoes.
5020. Anything else?—Yes, I had.
5021. What?—Flour.
5022. Where did you get the flour?—In the shop.
5023. What shop?—There are shops about the place.
5024. Tell me one?—Kilgallon's.
5025. You got it on credit?—Yes.
5026. Who paid for it?—My mother.
5027. How long was this before you got the relief?—I could not say.
5028. If you had enough and did not want relief, why did you go to apply for it?—(No answer.)
5029. Come, can't you answer that?—Well, when I seen them all going, I went.
5030. Who brought you here to-day?—Them all was coming and I came.
5031. Did you get anything for coming?—No.
5032. You saw them coming and you came yourself?—Yes.
5033. You say you were working on Mr. Stanton's land?—Yes.
5034. What were you doing?—Draining.
5035. Who sent you there to work?—John M'Nicholas put me to work.
5036. Did Mr. Stanton see you there?—No.
5037. Mr. *Daly*.—Do you know James O'Connor?—Yes.
5038. Mr. *Redington*.—Who signed the ticket for you?—I don't know. It was my mother got the ticket.

John Sheridan sworn.

John Sheridan.

5039. Mr. *Daly*.—Where do you live?—At Ard-gallon.
5040. Who is the landlord?—Mr. Moore, of Moore Hall.
5041. Were you working on these relief works last summer?—Yes.
5042. How many days did you work?—Six days. Three days of each week.
5043. Where did you?—At Ard-gallon.
5044. On the roads?—Yes.
5045. And you were paid by tickets, I presume?—Yes.
5046. Where did you get the stuff?—My wife went for it.

5047. Mr. *Redington*.—How much land have you?—I can't say how many acres there is in it.
5048. What is the rent?—The yearly rent is £10.
5049. What is your valuation?—£3 7s.
5050. How many cows have you?—About four.
5051. How many calves?—Four.
5052. Any sheep?—No—on one or two.
5053. And were you destitute?—Well, we could have done without it perhaps.
5054. Could you get credit at the time in the shops?—Yes, if I applied for it.
5055. Who gave you the ticket?—Well, it was my wife got it.

5056. Mr. Mennen.—Do you owe much money in the shops?—Not much.

5057. Did you really want relief?—I was out of provisions, and if a man gets a ticket it is his business to take it. If I did not get the ticket I should sell the cow.

5058. How did you pay your rent?—I went to England to get it.

5059. Who set you on the works?—Martin Lamb, a ganger.

5060. Who is the relieving officer?—Mr. Nicholas—Williams is his name, I think.

Witnesses.
John Stanton.

Peter Malligan sworn.

5061. Mr. Daly.—Where do you live?—At Collock.

5062. Were you on the relief works last summer?

—Yes.

5063. How many days did you work?—Five days in all.

5064. Where did you work?—Two days on a drain.

5065. Where was it?—Between two properties, and between Mr. Stanton's land and Mr. O'Malley's.

5066. On Mr. Stanton's land?—Partly so.

5067. Who put you on the work?—Mr. Nicholas.

5068. Did Mr. Stanton see you?—No.

5069. How were you paid?—By ticket, which my wife got.

5070. Mr. Mennen.—You say this drain was between the two lands?—Yes.

5071. Were there more than a dozen people whom this work was calculated to serve?—About seven or eight perhaps.

5072. Were you aware that this drain should be made, that they asked to have it done when the works on the road were exhausted?—No; I worked at the road there myself.

5073. Did Mr. Stanton send you on his land to work?—No.

5074. Mr. Robinson.—What is your rent?—47.

5075. Have you any cattle?—Two.

5076. Any sheep?—No.

5077. Were you in want during the time of this relief?—Not very much, but I was out of food.

5078. Could you not have got credit?—No.

5079. Mr. Mennen.—Do you owe money in the shops?—No.

5080. Would £40 pay it all?—Yes, and a lot less, thank God. If I owed £40 I would be beggared altogether.

5081. Did you want food at the time?—I was not quite empty.

5082. But at the time you got the meal did you want it?—Yes.

5083. How often did your wife come in barefooted for the relief?—There is a good many women comes in barefooted without asking for relief at all.

5084. How often did she come in asking for it?—About ten times.

5085. No more than that?—No.

5086. How often was she refused before she got it?—A good many times.

Peter Malligan.

Mr. A. J. Stanton v. &c. recalled.

5087. Mr. Mennen.—You are one of the guardians of Meelick division?—Yes.

5088. Did you hear these men swear that they were working on your land?—Yes.

5089. Did you ever, as a matter of fact, send them to work on your land?—No, never to my knowledge.

5090. Did the boy ever work on your land?—Never to my knowledge.

5091. You were not the contractor for the supply of meal?—No, my sister was.

5092. Are there two houses, one which you occupy, and one which she occupies?—Yes.

5093. Perfectly independent houses?—Yes.

5094. And was the meal distributed in here?—Yes.

5095. As far as you know was the relief distributed with due regard to the needs of the people?—Yes.

5096. And as far as you could did you endeavour to see that the relief was fairly administered?—I did.

5097. Did you hear one of the witnesses swear that neither he nor his family had actual need of relief although they obtained it?—Yes.

5098. Did you know their circumstances?—I know the family of the boy, and I know that they are destitute, and that they are used and doctored, and not able to meet their debts.

5099. Do you know that his father is or was a tenant on Taffie's estate?—I heard he was.

5100. You do not know of your own knowledge?—No, not of my own knowledge.

5101. Mr. Daly.—What business do you follow?—General business.

5102. Has your sister got a shop of her own?—The provision store belongs to her.

5103. When did she get it?—She is in possession of it a good while. She is older than I am.

5104. How long has she possession of these stores?—She always had them since her father died.

5105. What business exactly does she carry on?—The provision business, and as far as that is concerned she is in full jurisdiction.

5106. Does she keep an account in the bank of her own?—No.

5107. Do the profits of the provision business go into a common fund?—No, not the profits of that.

5108. Were the people supplied on the relief tickets from the store or shop?—From the store.

5109. How far are they separated?—The one is next door to the other.

5110. As a matter of fact do you and your sister live together?—No; there are two separate houses.

5111. Do you ever dine together?—Sometimes, but I tell you the houses are separate.

5112. Is there any friendly association between you?—Yes, the friendly association of brother and sister.

5113. Is there a door between the two houses?—There is a door between the two.

5114. Who superintended the sale of this meal?—My sister.

5115. Where did she get the meal and flour she supplied?—She always bought it in the best market.

5116. Who was in the habit of sending for this meal; did you ever?—I would do whatever I could.

5117. Did you ever send for it?—I often did.

5118. Wrote for it?—Not in my own name.

5119. Was it consigned in your own name?—No.

5120. How many acres have you in Meelick?—Twenty-five acres.

5121. Is it bog land?—Some of it is as good as any in that part of the country.

5122. Did you get any draining done on that land this summer?—No.

5123. Did you inspect this farm often?—did you go to see your stock?—Certainly.

5124. How often?—As a rule once a week.

5125. Did you notice any drains done there?—Not to my advantage.

5126. I did not ask you that; did you see any drains made?—I did.

5127. Did you make any inquiries as to them?—I heard it was done between O'Malley's property and Mr. Moore's.

5128. Did they go on your land to do this?—They might, and I have no doubt did.

5129. And did you allow them to go on your land to work without your knowledge and consent?—It

Mr. A. J. Stanton.

Witness
Mr. A. J.
Stanton.

was certainly done without my knowledge if they worked on my land.

5139. Was it done without your sanction?—I can only say that if I were not a guardian I would have sued for the injury done to me.

5140. Did he superintend your land?—Yes.

5141. Did he superintend your land?—No.

5142. Mr. Robinson.—You are a guardian?—Yes.

5143. Did you attend the meetings of the Board regularly?—Yes.

5144. Some of the relief money, as I understand, was spent draining the land of some of the ratepayers?—Yes.

5145. Did you think it a proper application of the relief money to spend it on draining the land of ratepayers?—Well, there was really very little done in the way of draining.

5146. How many ratepayers were benefited by such draining as was done?—Probably twelve or thirteen—twelve I should say.

5147. Do you think that was a proper way of spending the money?—In this locality there was not a bit of road, and these few people are on the verge of Bohola, and they came and asked me for permission, as they had no road there and as the only thing that would serve them. As their land was flooded every year the only thing that would serve them would be to cut this drain down by O'Malley's land, and I do not think the money could be more judiciously em-

ployed. I therefore said yes, if they did not do any injury to my land.

5148. Did it strike you that it was an improper thing to spend public money for the benefit of twelve individuals?—I thought it was in the nature of a public work as the benefit was not confined to one or two individuals, but as it benefited twelve at least. Of course, I heard the letter of the Local Government Board that work was not to be done for individuals.

5149. And you did not think this work done for individuals?—Not in the sense I took it to mean.

5150. Mr. Madden.—As far as you are concerned, there was no drainage of advantage to you?—No, the bit past me was not one quarter the length near the others.

5151. How many men were engaged on this work so far as you know altogether?—Three or four men for three days.

5152. And do I understand you to say that you allowed this work to be done at the request of the people about them?—Yes.

5153. And were you of opinion after reading the Local Government Board letter that that was a proper thing to do?—Yes. I studied it, indeed, because I knew that there were people there who would be anxious to get up a case.

5154. And you swear it was no advantage to you?—On the contrary.

James Gallagher sworn.

James
Gallagher

5146. Mr. Robinson.—You wish to give evidence as to the way the relief was distributed?—Yes.

5147. What have you to say?—I worked four days on the road and got only 2s. I went to Peter Harlin, the relieving officer, and he told me to go to the priest, and he told me to go to Peter Harlin, and four companions wrote about my case, for I was in distress, and Peter told me to go on the works, and then I only got six pence a day.

5148. Were you very poor?—Yes; I had not a penny in the world.

5149. Were you starving?—I was starving.

5150. And you worked four days and got 2s. 1s.—Yes, and only for the hours I would die.

5151. You had none?—Yes.

5152. The relieving officer gave you 2s. 1s.—Yes.

5153. That, I suppose, was because you would be able to get on with that and the here?—That is all I got anyway.

5154. How many hours had you?—I could not say.

5155. Had you twenty?—I could not say. It was the women wanted the boys.

P. J. McFady, Clerk of the Union recalled.

Mr. P. J.
McFady.

5156. Mr. Robinson.—What are the liabilities and assets on the 29th September last?—Balance against the union, £5,965; poor rate outstanding, £5,782; Parliamentary Grant due (not received), £314; total assets, £4,094; and rate outstanding 29th September, £2,104.

5157. Mr. Robinson.—The return which you have handed in is an accurate statement of the figures?—Yes (return verified).

5158. And this estimate is correct?—Yes.

5159. Mr. Robinson.—In your estimate how do you base your calculation for out door relief?—I took the average for two years.

5160. And establishment charges?—The same way.

5161. Last year you had a large expenditure for relieving officers' assistants?—You do not include them?—No; I left out all the exceptional charges.

5162. Expenses under Medical Charities Act?—That is less this year than last.

5163. Why so?—There were more medicines got in some districts—some of the doctors got a supply in advance. In Kiltinagh the medical officer got no medicines, but next year he will require a supply.

5164. What amount do you estimate for the ordinary expenditure of the union?—£5,309.

5165. You think that is the amount required under ordinary circumstances to carry on the expenses of the union?—Yes.

5166. What poundage rate would that entail on the union?—I find that the poundage rate required after charging all the divisions with liabilities, and allowing for credits, would be 2s. 9½d. There is a

recent Act of Parliament that the rate in a division cannot exceed a certain amount for indoor maintenance, and there are two divisions, Bruckton and Swinford, which come under that. The former gets a credit for £18 and Swinford £20, and that throws a penny in the pound on the others. The average rate would be 2s. 11½d. That includes seed rate as well as the excess under the Poor Relief Act.

5167. What is the rate required under ordinary circumstances to carry on the union?—For ordinary expenses, 2s. 8½d.

5168. That varies in some divisions?—Yes.

5169. Do you think your estimate as prepared there is not as fine as it can be?—Yes.

5170. Do I understand you to say that 2s. 8½d. is the rate that would always be required over the union?—Yes, the ordinary rate.

5171. Assuming you were clear of debt?—Yes.

5172. And the excess under the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act would require a poundage of how much?—2s. 1½d. and outside of that an average of 1s. 1d. for balance against divisions.

5173. Altogether the total required to clear the union would be 2s. 11½d. 1s.—Yes.

(Witness handed in return showing the amount of loans due to the Board of Works and Hibernian Bank 29th September, 1886.)

5174. Do you see any difficulty in collecting the rate?—Yes.

5175. Why?—It could not be collected.

5176. Do you hold any land in this union?—No.

Myles Jordan, Chairman recalled.

5177. Mr. Robinson.—You have heard the clerk's estimate as to the rate necessary to clear the union, 3s. 11d. on the average?—Yes.

5178. Is it your opinion this could not be levied without jeopardising the union?—I am afraid not by any means except by great force, for I know the people are not able to pay it. A report has gone abroad that this Commission is for the purpose of saddling them with whatever relief they get, and that they are to be personally taxed for the road.

5179. What is the limit of rate they could pay?—I think that 2s. 8½d. on an average is quite as high as the union could bear, if they could even bear that.

5180. That would not clear you of your arrears?—No.

5181. Well, how do you think the difficulty is to be met?—Unless the Government come to our assistance I do not believe that the people will be able to wipe out their debts.

5182. Are the people less able to pay now than they were four or five years ago?—Yes; the crops are not equal to what they were, and the price of cattle is down, and butter is selling here for 4d. a pound.

5183. Is there much butter made here?—All the people that have a cow make butter, and sell it at no matter what price. They make a few lbs. a week.

5184. The people are poorer now than they were four or five years ago?—Yes.

5185. And to want of employment a large element in that?—Yes; if the people could get employment even at one shilling they would have it, but here they cannot get 6s. and even in England is failed.

5186. A rate was asked in 1863, three years ago, which in some divisions was 3s. 6d. is the period. That seems to have been levied, could not that be levied now?—I don't think so.

5187. What is your division?—Tosnagh.

5188. Your rates are 2s. 6d. I believe so. The estimate of the clerk was higher, but we reduced it.

5189. Is that the cause of the arrears?—That will come against us now, I fear, because we were afraid it could not be collected.

5190. Do you think it would be impossible to levy the rate this year that would pay for the current expenses of the year, and pay the arrears, quite irrespective of the expenses under the Relief Act?—Yes, and it would destroy the people, who never could have managed at all only for the credit they got from the shopkeepers.

5191. Mr. Robinson.—You think they could levy a rate of 2s. 8½d. I—Well, it would be the very outside average rate that could be possible.

5192. Then you do not think this division could pay 4s. 1—I do not, indeed. Except Bruckloon, all the divisions might be able to go as far as 2s. 8d. or 2s. 8½d.

5193. Mr. Robinson.—How do you propose to deal with the arrears?—I do not know how to deal with them, unless the Government come to the help of this union. I went over the matter with the clerk, and other guardians, and tried to see what could be done, and we can't find out any way unless the Government come to our aid. This union is peculiarly situated. All the good land was given to Clonsmorris and Castlebar, and the greater portion of it is very wretched.

5194. Could you, in a good year, levy more than 2s. 8½d. I—I do not believe we could.

5195. What is the county cess now?—About 2s.

5196. Assuming that a loan was given (I have no reason to say it will be), but assuming the loan was given for this, how would you be able to pay the interest, if 2s. 8d. is the only thing you could pay, and that that is absolutely necessary?—There should be an effort made. But what I would ask the Government to do is to come to the relief of the union, and wipe out what we owe, and take the poor people of this impoverished district into their kind consideration.

5197. How much do you think should be advanced

to them?—I think they ought to wipe off this last relief amount, and the seed relief balance.

5198. In respect of those divisions that could not wipe them out themselves?—Yes.

5199. There are certain divisions in which only a slight rate is required?—Yes, in Ballinacorney, Bohish, and Udhur, there is not a heavy rate, and a special arrangement might be made so far as they are concerned.

5200. Mr. Morrison.—What was the whole amount of the seed rate in this union?—£27,000 I believe.

5201. How much is outstanding now?—£3,000, I think.

5202. So that the people have paid about £24,000 of that?—Yes.

5203. Do you know that that was paid with a great deal of difficulty by the people?—Yes.

5204. And the payment of that impoverished them in many instances?—Yes.

5205. You think that 2s. 8½d. is quite as much as they could possibly pay?—Yes—the very utmost.

5206. And could they pay that without very great difficulty?—No, even a lower rate would involve great difficulty to pay.

5207. Do you believe the granting of a loan would place the union in a better position?—Yes, if nothing else could be done.

5208. Since the time of the vice-guardians, has the Board been getting loans to take them out of their difficulties?—Yes.

5209. And has not the result been to make them almost worse off than ever?—Well, it has turned out so.

5210. Do you think it possible that this union can ever be restored to a condition of solvency unless the Government give something in the nature of a free grant?—No, no matter whether we have vice-guardians or not.

5211. Do you believe the people have done all in their power to pay the rate asked on them?—Yes. They were desirous to show the Government that they were honest and deserving, and desired to do the best they could.

5212. And nothing prevented their doing it but poverty?—Yes.

5213. Do you know that they often impoverished themselves to pay it?—I know it.

5214. In the event of the Government giving a free grant to wipe this out, or to enable to wipe it out, how would you propose it should be wiped off—would you be in favour of public works?—I think the only thing would be to wipe it off, or forgive it. I do not see any use in resorting to public works.

5215. Are there not works that could usefully be done here, are you aware it was the intention of the Road and Piers Commissioners to come and investigate the state of this union? The guardians applied to them to build a bridge which the county was asked to build several times, and which would be of great advantage to this union, but they paid no heed to us. They have given us no money at all.

5216. Has nothing been done?—No, nothing, with the exception of that relief.

5217. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think the carrying out of works would enable the debt to be wiped out?—No, I do not see that it would.

5218. Do you know that a large part of the land is held by coarpgers under £4?—Yes.

5219. Are the landlords in bad circumstances?—Yes, as bad as they can be, nearly as bad as the tenants.

5220. Is the rent in this union above or below the valuation?—Above.

5221. Mr. Morrison.—Do you know that it has been found necessary to sue tenants when landlords were primarily liable?—Yes.

5222. Do you know that on Tossie's estate £190 is due for rates?—Yes.

5223. Were the guardians instructed to apply to the Landed Estates Court?

DEPUTY-CLERK,
Mr. Myles
Jordan.

Mr. P. J. McNulty, Clerk of the Union, recalled.

Witness.
Mr. P. J.
McNulty.

5134. Mr. Robinson.—What grants were made to this Union by the Local Government Board?—£3,344

(return handed in of grants exclusive of grant under Poor Relief Act).

Mr. Standish O'Grady M'Donnell, s.r., sworn.

Mr. Standish
O'Grady
M'Donnell, s.r.

5135. Mr. Morrison.—You are a guardian of this union?—Yes.

5136. And were once chairman?—Yes.

5137. Kindly state your opinion as to the state of the union, and any suggestions you have to make?—I think the union is utterly unable, and has been for some time, to at all combat with the relief of distress in its limited area. The distress has been very intense in nearly every part of the union, with the exception of two or three electoral divisions that happened to have large areas of open lands. The clerk's estimate bears out my view. The poorer divisions are utterly unable and have been so since 1878, to meet their liabilities. The rate that is spoken of here, 2s. 8½d. in the £, is a rate in my opinion altogether out of the power of the people to pay, although it bears a very small comparison to the 5s. 11½d. rate we are asked to strike on Tuesday next. The reason I give you for that is that we have been for a great number of years paying a rate far in excess of our surrounding unions, so much so, that statistics will show that while in the neighbouring union, Castlebar, they reached 6d., 8d., in the £, we were paying 2s. in the £, that was the rate on the adjoining electoral division, the one bordering Castlebar.

5138. Were they similarly circumstanced?—No, the people in these divisions in 1846 and 1847 were swept off by the famine, and they came into the metropolitan districts of this union, and that time our union was larger to the extent of 108 townlands than it is now. By the redistribution of the union there was taken from us 116 townlands and we got 8, and the population driven in from these surrounding townlands came into the metropolitan parts and became the population we have now to deal with, and the population and the poverty arising from that population is very great. There are 52,000 odd on a valuation of £46,000 a year, and having regard to the circumstances of the Union, it would be utterly impossible for us to meet the present necessities of this union.

5139. Mr. Robinson.—That change in the condition of the union was made thirty years ago?—Yes, and we have gone down step by step.

5140. In 1871 there was a rate of 2s. 1?—That was excessive then, for it put us into wrong competition with the neighbouring union which was paying 6d. The fact is, that we have at present no chance whatever in competition with Castlebar.

5141. Fifteen years ago the rates were not excessive—the highest not exceeding 1s. 10d. 1?—That was excessive, for the men in the surrounding unions were only paying 6d. or 8d. in the pound. If you allow me, I will call your attention to a resolution which was sent to the Government in 1879, which has a suggestive bearing on that matter.

5142. Is the high rate due to the poverty of the people necessitating a greater amount of out-door relief, or is it owing to the small area of the union?—Yes, to both. A population of 52,000 living in a valuation of £46,000 among the lowest agricultural capacity of land. Obviously there must be poverty there when their labour in England ceases to be capital to them. This union, I may mention, sends labour to England in excess of all the unions of Mayo, and the question of deportation has a bearing on the point. They work there for thirty or forty years, but if they attempt to settle they are sent back, so we have the old and feeble people who break down in England.

5143. Has the expenditure of the union increased by additional charges being put on by the Govern-

ment?—Yes, so much so, that in 1874 (I quote from them) £1,513 was the expenditure for maintenance alone, taking that one item, and the total expenditure was £3,700 for that year, and now the expenditure is £12,159. The poor laws were first intended to feed the poor and nothing else, now they have involved out of that course and gone into a kind of political or Government department. Every other day something new came down.

5144. Mr. Robinson.—What is the remedy you would propose for this?—As far as Swinford is concerned, I would claim back the 108 townlands taken from us, and as far as the distribution of relief goes, and certainly in exceptional cases, when it was an imperative necessity to relieve the people as it certainly is in this district, I would control that distribution by the appointment of public officers to assist the immediate distribution of tickets and see that there was no abuse.

5145. Do you anticipate that it will be often necessary for the Government to give that sort of relief?—I am perfectly satisfied as the union is constituted now. The people are thrown back without the old earnings from England, the population is increasing from day to day the depression in prices is great, and you will have as great a call for relief before this year is out as in any other year.

5146. What is your division?—Toomore; mine is one of the eight divisions I referred to, I am in one of those unfortunate townlands imported out of Castlebar.

5147. Mr. Robinson.—You want to go back?—I want to bring the others with me.

5148. If the union was enlarged by the addition of 108 townlands would it be able to pay its way?—I think that if we had these townlands back it would make us well able to pay our way, but I think we will have to go to the root of this relief under the poor law. It is now nothing but beggary. You should make the labour that is done reproductive, and those who work should be compelled to do some work that will be reproductive. The workhouse is now nothing but a hotel for all the tramps between the several market towns. They come in here and go out just as it suits them.

5149. Do you make them break stones?—It is very difficult.

5150. In every well ordered union they succeed in doing it, and they are made to break stones before they get their breakfast, and I do not see why it cannot be done here?—Well, I am aware that it is done so much as possible. If I had my way in the matter, any man coming in I would not let him out for a week.

5151. That would be hard on the ratepayers?—No, you would not have so many coming. I would take the liberty of reading the following resolution, adopted by the Board of Guardians of the Swinford Union, at a meeting held on Tuesday, 9th December, 1879:—

"Resolved.—That in reply to the letter of the Local Government Board, and with reference to the Circular as to loans under the Land Improvement Act, in which the attention of the guardians has been directed, the guardians desire to say that the recommendation of the Local Government Board, relative to a supply of clothing, and accommodation being ready in the workhouse for additional inmates, will be at once attended to, and the guardians are prepared to stimulate their powers under the laws for relief of the poor, to the best of their ability to meet their present distress, but are convinced they will be inadequate. The guardians believing that the Government, with the Local Government Board, are anxious to consider the special case of a district where distress exists, with the view

of applying a timely remedy where it is manifest that either the machinery of the Poor Laws, or the offer of loans referred to, be sufficient, deem it their duty most respectfully to lay before the Local Government Board, and through them, before the Government, the following special cases affecting this union, and the suggestions which the guardians, from their local knowledge, think it prudent to offer—

"1. We consider that the present distress (the result of continuous bad harvests, combined with exceptional agricultural and trade depression) will chiefly afflict the industrial small tenants, whom it is the interest of the State to protect from sinking into pauperism. The estimated average rates of this union has been for several years over 2s. in the £, and now is 2s. 6d., already a serious strain on the limited resources of the ratepayers.

"2. The population of this union, in comparison with its valuation and that of the surrounding unions, is as follows:—Bathons, £1 3s. 6d. per head of population; Clonsilla, £1 8s.; Tobarroary, £1 9s. 4d.; Clonsilla, £1 9s.; Clonsilla, £1 11s.; Swinford, £1 10s. 6d. 8d. alone, in Clonsilla, equals Swinford in population, and a valuation of £1 10s. 2d. per head of its population. Swinford, having neither respect nor manufacturing, valuates exclusively on agriculture.

"3. That the excessive population has been the result of the clearances effected during the famine years, when the population of extensive tracts, now in grazing, or large farms in other areas, came into this and settled upon the mountains, and waste lands have, since then, partially reclaimed them.

"4. That there are numerous overlands so reclaimed, into which there are no roads, and in which a proper system of drainage and other works would enable the occupant to complete the reclamation of the lands and be of vast benefit, but which works we do not expect the owners to undertake, they being in many instances either absentees or having such divided or small interests as to deter them from working on lands other than those in their own possession.

"5. That we are of opinion that landlords in this union, having, as a rule, very little lands in their own possession, or in large farms, will not borrow money to any extent at the rates offered to be expended in semipublic relief works, and that those who might do so ought to be offered more encouraging terms, that a payment of £134 or £180 out of their properties for the present loan of £100 incurred in assisting to provide for an imperial treasury, it also appearing that the expenses of the surveyor for such works also at first provided for by the Government, will be included in the expenditure under the loan at the rate of 42 2s. per day to the Government Surveyor.

"6. That any sanitary works to be executed in this union by us as Sanitary Authority, will not necessitate the expenditure of an amount which would provide to any extent for the employment of the people, with we believe that the most efficacious sanitary works, if undertaken in this union, would be the thorough arterial and surface drainage of the lands, the improvements of the dwellings of the people, and their being enabled to make provision for the proper storing of the manure, and keeping animals out of their houses, results more certain, in our opinion, to follow their being able to get at least one year's remunerative employment at home, than any compulsory enactment on the subject.

"7. That we believe, unless some measures be adopted to provide immediate employment on reproductive works, of an extent sufficient to meet the exigencies of the labouring class in this union, that a grave responsibility will rest on those throwing the entire relief of our exceptionally large population on the ratepayers."

(Witness) Now we have since then grown from bad to worse.

5242. Mr. Mounsey.—Would the people of this union ever be able to pay real rates or anything else, only for the money they earn in England?—Certainly not. The people of this country have brought enormous quantities of gold from England, and it has been pumped out of them and gone back to England again.

5243. Suppose that the labour in England ceases altogether and the income resulting from going there, could they live?—It would be the greatest benefit to this country, for it would throw on the Government an imperial necessity of affording the people an opportunity of living.

5244. But as the country is at present, do you believe they could get on here but for the money they take from England?—Certainly. The miracle is how they have managed to do what they have done. It is astonishing how in a few years £25,000 and more has been paid to the Treasury.

5245. And they depend most largely on what they get from England?—Yes. They have some small industries such as butter, but they are miserably small compared with other places, though there is a good trade, no doubt, done with this town.

5246. As a matter of fact are not these small industries very much diminished—almost extinguished in fact?—They are very much handicapped by the excessive taxation. Men like myself are obliged to strike off labourers, for we are unable to pay the big bills of poor rate and keep on the labour at the same time.

5247. Is it not a fact that butter that in 1879 fetched 1s. 2d. and 10d. a lb., does not now bring more than 4d. 1—The butter hangs down unmarketably, but the butter could be improved immensely, if there was an improved way of making it.

5248. Yes, but for the same quality that in 1879 they got 1s. 2d. 1—Well, that is a matter of market value and it could be improved.

5249. Mr. Ballaghen.—Have you any other observations to make?—As far as this last relief is concerned I held that the guardians were elected to discharge the duty in connection with this, and if they allowed that dirty the ratepayers are not liable. It was an unlimited confidence put in them by the Government, and no doubt the work was done to the best of their ability under the circumstances, but most undoubtedly, as a ratepayer, I repudiate anything to do with these grants being put on the ratepayers.

5250. As a ratepayer you would not like to pay any of it?—Quite so.

Witness.
Mr. Standish
O'Donnell.
Mr. Standish
O'Donnell.

Mr. Ignatius P. O'Donnell, F.R.C.S., M.D.

5251. Mr. Robinson.—What is your opinion about the payment of the liabilities of the union?—The ratepayers will never be able to pay the rates.

5252. You are a guardian?—Yes, for Brackloon, and the rate there for ordinary expenditure they will never be able to pay.

5253. What is the amount?—3s. 1d.

5254. What did you pay last year?—3s., or 3s. 3d.

5255. And the year before?—3s. 6d. I think. It has the largest average of paupers of any division, the population is 5,814, and the valuation £1,638.

5256. You say you could not meet your rate for ordinary expenditure?—No; there is 2s. 6d. public cess.

5257. But is not the greater part of that paid by the landlords?—No.

5258. Is 9d. is your full estimated rate?—Yes.

5259. How much of that could you pay?—2s. 6d.

5260. You have often paid higher than that?—Yes, but times have changed, and we always had difficulties which are now greater than ever.

Mr. Ignatius
O'Donnell.

Mr. A. J. Stanton, R.L.O., recalled.

SWINFORD.
Mr. A. J.
Stanton.

5261. Mr. Robinson.—You ruled the books very frequently as Deputy Vice Chairman of the Board?—Yes.

5262. You had a great deal of out-door relief?—Yes, a great deal.

5263. Was it given chiefly to sick people?—Well, as a rule fever is very prevalent in parts of the union. In 1834, I remember four families in one division and out of them ten individuals died, and of course we had to relieve them and be generous to them.

5264. Is the relief given provisionally generally?—Yes.

5265. Do you think the clerk's estimate a fair one—it is very alarming?—It is undoubtedly.

5266. Do you think he might have made the rate lower?—I know the people are not able to pay more than 2s.

5267. Have you examined the estimate of the clerk?—Yes.

5268. Is it a fair and proper one in your opinion?—Yes, except that it is quite too high to be paid.

5269. You think he has fairly averaged the requirements of the union?—Yes, I have no doubt.

5270. And you think his estimate a not unreasonable one?—No.

5271. Now as to the rate—take column 25, expenditure to meet all your liabilities?—Well, in the case of Ballymore it is an exception. It is like the Castlebar union. It is particularly good land and very few small holdings, and there are no paupers in this workhouse from it. That is the reason of the low rate.

5272. You think that division could meet the rate?—Well, it is the best.

5273. Is there any other?—No, not one that ought to be asked to pay more than 2s. I am the guardian of Meelick—the estimate is 2s. 6d. without the balance

for the relief incurred presently under the Relief of Distress Act, and 2s. 6d. would be a high rate to strike on my division.

5274. Mr. Robinson.—Was not your rate 2s. 6d. last year and the year before?—Yes.

5275. And 2s. 6d. the year before that?—Well, I will explain that. Mr. Robinson was our inspector, and the rates went up as high as 7s. Kilmoghney was assessed somewhere as low as 3s. Through Mr. Robinson knowing our circumstances so well—and I am glad to have this public opportunity of thanking him for all he did for us then and whenever he could—through him a grant was given reducing this 7s. rate down to 2s. 6d. The reduced rate was collected, but with considerable difficulty.

5276. Mr. Robinson.—How much could be paid now in your division?—2s. is as much as could be collected.

5277. When will the guardians consider this estimate?—They are called on to consider it on the 7th, but I know they won't consider it on that day.

5278. Why not settle it as soon as you can?—We will expect you to give us all the money you can, and to put us on our terms.

5279. It would be useless for the guardians to defer it until they hear our report. They should strike as high a rate as they can?—If we were got in their sailing order, and we are in hopes of that, we would, I believe, go on smoothly for the future. The gentlemen constituting the Board are not altogether landlords. They attend to their work and represent the ratepayers in every way they can, with the assistance of Captain Simpson, who has given invaluable help to us during the time of distress, and, indeed, I don't know a better man, when we lost yourself, who could have succeeded you.

The inquiry was adjourned until Monday, at 11 o'clock.

Tue. 4, 1834.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 1834.

SWINFORD UNION.

The Commissioners resumed the Inquiry.

Mr. P. J. McNulty (Clerk of Union), sworn.

Mr. P. J.
McNulty.

5280. Mr. Robinson.—Have the guardians considered the question of amalgamation or alteration of the boundaries?—Yes.

5281. Have they passed a resolution on the subject?—Yes.

5282. What was the effect of that resolution?—They adopted a resolution on the last day, recommending that you would be good enough to consider the extension of the boundaries to the original limits of the union.

5283. What did these limits comprise?—Part of Claremorris, part of Tubbercurry, and part of the present Castlebar Union.

5284. When was the change made?—In 1830.

5285. On what grounds do the guardians think the change desirable?—They think the present valuation of the union too low in proportion to the expenditure, and that owing to the low valuation of this union the Board think it necessary, by way of increasing it, to add portions of those unions which originally belonged to us.

5286. Do you know exactly what electoral divisions were taken from you?—There were portions of the parishes of Kilmactigue, Achery, Aughamore and Knock, comprising over 100 townlands taken

from this union in 1830, and given to the unions of Claremorris, Tubbercurry, &c.

5287. How many townlands were taken?—One hundred and eighteen altogether, and we only got eight.

5288. In Castlebar what townlands were taken from you?—I could not exactly say.

5289. What was the population of the union at the time of the alteration of the boundary?—The population of this union I find by the Report of the Poor Law Commissioners of 1841 was 25,945.

5290. That was the old union?—Yes.

5291. What was the population of the electoral divisions forming the new Swinford Union?—53,714 is the present population.

5292. What was the valuation then?—It was not computed on the same basis. The present valuation came in since.

5293. Has the population of Swinford increased or decreased since then?—It has been reduced since 1841, because we had a good deal of distress in 1846-47 and a good deal of emigration.

5294. As I understand, the grounds upon which the guardians desire the change is to enable them to have a larger area?—Yes, it is impossible for the

union to have anything like fair rates without an increase of the kind.

5795. When was this subject discussed?—Several times.

5796. Was notice of motion given to discuss the question?—Well, it was at a special meeting of the board.

5797. Specially convened to consider the matter?—Not exactly to consider this matter.

5798. Do you think the opinion of the guardians is that there ought to be an increased area of charge?—Yes, decidedly.

5799. Is that the unanimous opinion?—Almost unanimously they are of that opinion.

5800. What is your reason for arriving at that conclusion?—From hearing it discussed amongst them.

5801. Have you been able to make any calculation as to the probable financial result?—No, for I do not know exactly how the boundary would be extended. It would be a difficult matter to decide.

5802. As I understand, however, the view of the guardians is that the original boundary ought to be restored to?—Yes.

5803. You are not able to say exactly what those boundaries were?—No.

5804. Do the guardians think that the result of such an extension would be a considerable reduction in the rates?—Yes.

5805. They think that they would be relieved of many of their present difficulties?—Yes, and that there should be such a reduction as to compare with the adjoining unions.

5806. Have they taken any steps to consider the opinion of these adjoining unions?—No.

5807. When the Poor Law Inquiry of 1877-8 was held were steps taken to find out the opinion as to amalgamation?—I was not clerk then as the union.

5808. Mr. Redington.—I have a return here showing that fifteen years ago the rates were comparatively low—the area and valuation were the same then, I suppose?—The area and valuation were the same, or nearly the same, but since then a good many extra expenses—especially by Acts of Parliament—have been added. Now, for instance, in 1878 the Public Health Act was passed, and it cost £325 additional on the rates. In 1873 the Sanitation Act was passed, and before 1871 we had hardly any sanitation. Now, we have a doctor who gets £85 a year, and a mistress nearly £40; and in 1878 we had the Com-

munal Diseases Animals Act passed, which entails an expense of £138 a year. In 1879 we had the Dispersary Houses involving to us £350 a year (three houses); and between all the loans and interest on them, the additional burdens have been very great, indeed.

5809. Mr. Robinson.—But eventually there will be a gain to the guardians. After thirty years they will be receiving rents from the estates?—Since 1871 all the charges amount to £1,225, in addition to what then existed. The Guardians expend about £900 a year on an average of outdoor relief, and the year before last we gave £1,000.

5810. How do you account for that?—By the increase of poverty.

5811. Mr. Redington.—Would you not reduce the rates by reducing the amount of outdoor relief?—Well, the guardians appear to go into the question of relief as well as they can. At every meeting of the Board they go carefully over the case. The union has become very much impoverished during the last three or four years. There was a seed rate paid of £22,000, and that was a sore tax upon them.

5812. Have the indoor expenses increased in that time?—They have.

5813. And you do not see any probability of their diminishing?—No, but rather of their increasing.

5814. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think the staff is out of proportion to the union?—No, I do not see how it could be reduced.

5815. You have a great many divisions in the union?—Twenty-one.

5816. Do you think any reduction in the staff could be made?—No, I do not.

5817. Your opinion is favourable to a change in the boundaries to the old limits?—Yes; most of the townlands taken from us are nearer to Swinford Workhouse than to any of the neighbouring workhouses. Many are very thinly populated, and are merely grazing farms, and the best lands in either of the two baronies comprising the Swinford Union, which has comparatively the lowest valuation and the largest population of any rural union in the whole of Ireland. Of course it would be for further inquiry which of these townlands would be now added to this union, but it is evident that the impoverished ratepayers of this union cannot pay the high rates imposed upon them, and which are yearly becoming higher, unless the boundaries are extended.

Myrle H. Jordan (Chairman of the Board) sworn.

5818. Mr. Robinson.—Have you considered the question of amalgamation?—Yes.

5819. What is your opinion on the subject?—I would not be for amalgamating this union in the sense of closing up this workhouse, because I think the population here is too great, and I think the destitute poor could never be conveyed to long distances, but I think the townlands taken from this union ought to be put back, because the present valuation is so low that the rate must always be very high.

5820. Two shillings and eightpence was the average rate last time?—Yes, and anyone driving through the union coming from Kilmacagh must see the poverty of the union, except in some very small areas.

5821. Have you gone into this question at all carefully?—No, not very carefully.

5822. With regard to the distances to be travelled, would it be a hardship to the divisions you propose to join to you that they should have to go so much further?—No. The population of these districts is not large in comparison with this union. The land is good. In fact, all the good land was taken away from this union. We have all the bad land, and we have the population, and the land taken away has not the population. It would be no inconvenience to them to be amalgamated.

5823. If these parts were taken back would the

workhouse be pretty centrally situated?—Yes, for then all.

5824. Do you remember the union when it had the large area?—No.

5825. Have you ever heard of suffering or inconvenience arising from these divisions being far away from the workhouse?—No, but there was in 1846 and 1847, and they were obliged to build new workhouses, such as Clonsilla, because of the great pressure and want of accommodation. Afterwards it was found that the outdoor relief increased very much; in fact, the people would rather die outside than come into the workhouse, and if you did not give them relief they would starve.

5826. Have you made any calculation as to the result of amalgamation?—No.

5827. You recommend the extension on the ground solely of the financial advantage to the Union of an increased area?—Yes, and the population of the Union.

5828. Do you consider that the ratepayers as a rule would be in favour of amalgamation?—I do.

5829. Is there sufficient accommodation at present in the workhouse to accommodate the paupers who would come from these divisions?—Yes.

5830. You have about 200 at present?—Yes.

5831. And what is the accommodation of the workhouse?—About 600 (186).

Witnesses
Mr. P. J.
McCarthy.

Mr. Myrle H.
Jordan.

Swinsford,
Mr. Myles H.
Jordan.

5832. How the workhouse ever been full since '68?—Not to my knowledge.

5833. How any particular department of it been full?—Not that I know.

5834. Then you consider there would be always ample accommodation for all these townlands?—Yes.

5835. You would include a large part of Claremorris and a large portion of Tubbercurry Unions, and assuming it was proposed to break up Claremorris where would you send the remaining part of them?—A great part to Ballinacree. The Claremorris workhouse might be turned into an industrial school (but of course that is another question) for the children, remembering always that "poverty is no crime," and that would be a good movement, for children never become good members of society who are brought up in a workhouse.

Mr. Robinson.—That is a question outside the scope of our inquiry.

Witness.—No doubt, but I only mentioned it.

Stewart O'Grady M'Dermott, J.P., sworn.

Mr. Stansh
O'Grady
M'Dermott.

5841. Mr. Robinson.—Have you prepared any statement with reference to the subject of amalgamation?—I have been considering the subject and I would say that if it be impossible to get back the number of townlands and bring back the Union to its original extent, I would consider that an alternative would be to divide this Union and to allot it to the five border Unions. I very much fear you would scarcely be able to break up solvent Unions to assist an insolvent one, and I would suggest that in that event some other course be adopted. The valuation of this Union is £46,753, and the population 53,540; the population of the whole county Mayo is 244,809, or in other words one fourth or one fifth the whole population within our Union. Now the border Union of Ballina has a population of 30,911, and a valuation of £45,342; I would give to it the electoral divisions of Yough, Calow, Oulidoo, and Swinsford, making a gross total for valuation of £28,941, or with the border divisions added £58,283. To Tubbercurry, with a population of 26,724, and a valuation of £40,654, I would add the divisions of Dooanilla, Kilbeagh, Sennagh, and Cloonmore, whose total valuation is £7,001, making a total valuation with Tubbercurry added of £47,655. I would add to Castlebar, with a population of 44,338, and a valuation of £71,844, the electoral divisions of Kilmeave, Ullaur, Killyally, and Coolnaha, whose total valuation is £6,378, making a combined valuation of £78,222. To Claremorris, with a population of 31,300, and a valuation of £42,045, I would add Aughanore, Kilmagh, Killeddan, Bellinamore, and Brackloon electoral divisions, whose valuations amounted to £8,828, or a total of £50,873. Finally to Castlebar, with a population of 39,171, and a valuation of £65,370, I would add Toomevanagh, Moshak, Bohaly, and Toomee, whose valuations come to £8,682, making a total valuation of £73,302.

5842. Do you consider that Swinsford is the poorest of all?—Yes.

5843. Is there not more necessity for a union there than where there is less poverty and better land?—Well, if you could extend the union, no doubt—but I put that forward as an alternative scheme. You see for 10 or 20 years since the guardians have been working at it, instead of getting better it has been getting worse and worse. To increase the union so that you can work it is, no doubt, a desirable thing if practicable, and it is only as a painful alternative I make my suggestion. It would be better to break up these unions than go on as we have been going.

5844. Do you think that the wants of the destitute poor could be looked after properly without a workhouse here?—I think the divisions named would be near enough to the several other workhouses to enable the poor to be provided for in the event of our not being able to carry on here.

5836. Mr. Redington.—There has been a great increase in twenty years in the outdoor relief. In '47 £2, and we have had it in evidence that £1,000 was spent last year or the year before last. Do you shrink that, without injury to the poor, that could be reduced?—No; it has been reduced at certain times of the year, and every guardian has taken the utmost care to keep it down as low as possible consistent with safety.

5837. But if it was greatly reduced it would lower the rates considerably?—Yes, but I do not see how leaving regard to the safety of the poor, it could be done.

5838. Twenty years ago it was practically non-existent. How did you get on then?—The people with their small holdings have become very poor.

5839. In '51 there was no outdoor relief at all given?—I do not recollect how that was.

5840. Are times worse now than they were twenty years ago?—I think they are.

5845. Do you know enough of Mayo to be able to say if there would be hardship caused by breaking up Claremorris Union?—No, if we took something of Claremorris adjoining this there would be a considerable quantity of green land, and it would relieve us very much, and if we would get some of the large farms of Castlebar it would help us immensely.

5846. If you broke up Claremorris you would have to give the remainder to Ballinacree?—Yes.

5847. You do not know if there would be any hardship to those divisions to come here?—The hardship is on us.

5848. Would there be hardship to the poor of Claremorris if they had to come to Swinsford rather than to Claremorris?—No.

5849. What is the distance between Claremorris and Swinsford?—Twelve miles.

5850. And from Ballinacree to Swinsford?—Twelve or thirteen miles.

5851. And you think as far as the interests of the poor are concerned there would be no loss?—No.

5852. It is purely a question as to whether it would be a financial advantage to Claremorris or not, is that so? We could scarcely fight these five unions, they being in an insolvent condition. The alternative might be suggested of dividing this union between these five border Unions.

5853. Mr. Redington.—Did you attend the board room twenty-five years ago?—Yes.

5854. The area was the same and the valuation then?—All except one division, I believe.

5855. Well the rates were low then?—Yes.

5856. None were above 1s. 10d.: how do you account for the increase of rates since?—At that time there was a great deal of poverty in the county and the people would rather die than have anything to do with outdoor relief. They have been getting rid of that and demoralisation has been the result. A system of Indian meal and poverty which had become even more intense. When the people earned well in England they had a very poor way of living except for that, and they did not spend so much.

5857. When they got good earnings in England they did not spend as much as now?—No. They had not the same expensive habits as now. They are better clothed and fed, but the money does not go so far.

5858. Do you remember the year 1851-2?—Yes.

5859. Was that a very bad time?—Yes. That was the time of the fuel famine.

5860. In spite of that the expenditure was half what it is now. Was any injury suffered by the poor in consequence of your being more chary of outdoor relief?—In that winter the poor suffered very much indeed. No doubt about it.

5867. You think therefore it was not perhaps judicious to have been so economical in the distribution of relief there?—I do not see well how you can avoid giving relief.

5868. Did you give relief at that time?—No doubt relief was given.

5869. But twenty-five years ago there was practically no outdoor relief given, according to the returns, and the expenses of the paupers in the house were considerably less than now. They were one-half. So apparently they did not come into the house?—No doubt about that. There are people now not ashamed to come in and take a bag of meal or take relief, who long ago would be ashamed to think that their thirty-first cousin did such a thing.

5870. Considering the alteration in the times and the state of feeling in the country, you think it would be impossible now to revert to the old system of practically no outdoor relief?—Yes, at the present moment it would be practically impossible. We had only two relieving officers twenty-five years ago and

they were considered sufficient to do the work. The Local Government Board compelled us to appoint additional relieving officers, and since they were put on we have had additional outdoor relief.

5871. You attend the workhouse pretty often?—Yes, as frequently as I can.

5872. Is the outdoor relief administered in your opinion only where there is justification for it?—Under the ordinary outdoor relief law I should certainly say yes. I have myself gone carefully into it. As to the extraordinary outdoor relief, I have nothing to do with it.

5873. You are quite of opinion that amalgamation is the only way of reducing the rates permanently in the union?—Yes.

5874. Mr. Robinson.—Is it your opinion that your ordinary rate—a rate say of 2s. 8d. in the pound, could not be got in under existing circumstances?—Under existing circumstances we simply could not get on.

A. J. Stanton, R.L.G., sworn.

5875. Mr. Robinson.—As Vice-Chairman of the Board, I presume, Mr. Stanton, your attention has been directed to the question of amalgamation?—Yes.

5876. Is it your opinion that it is desirable to get back to this union the electoral divisions that belonged to it?—Yes, that is what we look to.

5877. Would you approve of the proposal to break up this union?—Certainly not. It would be, in my opinion, a most foolish course to adopt, and I do not at all agree with the spirit or terms of Mr. M'Dermott's proposal. It would be an injury to the poor, and it would never work satisfactorily I believe from any point of view.

5878. The electoral divisions about Ballaghadenreen and Claremorris were the rich districts that were taken from you?—Yes. All Knock and Anglemore.

5879. What is your idea as to the best and most practical course to be adopted under the existing circumstances?—I would not for a moment entertain the idea of breaking up the Swinford Union. We have there the deapest and poorest population in Mayo.

5880. You think it would be a disadvantage to the interest of the poor, if the position of the workhouse was changed?—Most certainly. I think everyone who considers the subject at all will agree with me that the centre of distress is the place where the workhouse ought to be situated. Mr. M'Dermott's suggestion has little or nothing to recommend it, and it will not receive any support I believe from any one who knows the circumstances. We have the population, and the other unions have little else than bellies. We had a little of Castlebar Union only—the townlands of Carravogreen, and Carravonally, near Strid, but I would suggest the taking of Claremorris Union across by Ballinacree and Crossboyne. You could break up this union by giving us half and giving the other half to Ballinacree.

5881. Could that be done without danger to the sick and destitute?—I think and believe so. We formerly held all the parishes of Anglemore and Knock.

5882. How far does the Union of Swinford now extend in the direction of Ballinacree?—To within a mile of Ballinacree, and I would limit our destination there to the town.

5883. What else would you suggest?—I would ask you to take a small corner off Castlebar including the town of Ballaghadenreen, which nearly touches our present limits. I would follow on curiously then by the townland of Moylough in the Tobarney Union and then you join the parishes originally held by us—Curry, Kilmessoge, Aghony, and Bohola. In

fact you could complete the circuit by taking a little from each of the surrounding unions without inconvenience or danger to the sick or destitute.

5884. Was the town of Claremorris portion of this union?—No, it belonged to Ballinacree.

5885. Mr. Robinson.—How far is Tobarney from Swinford?—Ten miles. What I have suggested is I believe the only feasible means of ameliorating our present financially depressed condition.

5886. Mr. Robinson.—Do the guardians give the relieving officer instructions in all cases which he brings before them provisionally?—As a rule he brings the cases before the presiding chairman, and with the assistance of the guardian of the division, the cases are ruled.

5887. Mr. Robinson.—Could any more economical arrangement of the staff be made to materially lessen the rates?—No, I do not see how it could.

5888. How many relieving officers have you?—Three for the whole union—three permanent officers, and I do not see how we could possibly lessen the number consistently with our duty to the poor.

5889. Do you give outdoor relief to landholders?—No, except in some very few cases where we find that the people cannot be removed to the workhouse, and where the doctor gives a certificate.

5890. Can you explain how it is that whilst there was no outdoor relief given in 1861, there was £1,100 spent in 1888, and £738 is put down in the present estimate?—I can't go back as far as 1861.

5891. Well, in 1870 £35 was spent, £1,000 in 1883—that is a great rise in thirteen years—can you explain that?—No, except that there was an increase of fever and distress generally.

5892. Was the workhouse test applied as much in recent years as formerly?—Yes, I have known it to have been rigidly applied in recent years.

5893. Do you think that without injury to the poor, the outdoor relief could be reduced to any considerable extent?—No, I do not.

5894. You do not think it could be reduced much below the present average?—No.

5895. Fever, I think you said, has increased in the union in recent years?—I am sorry to say it has been very prevalent.

5896. Is it owing to poverty?—Yes, poverty, bad food, and small holdings. In 1880 the hospital was not able to hold there all the cases were so numerous. And I may say here that you might as well think of transporting the poor to the South Dublin Union as of taking them to Castlebar, as was suggested.

R 2

Mr. Ignatius P. O'Donnell, F.R.C.S., sworn.

Witnessed
—
Mr. Ignatius
P. O'Donnell.

5897. Mr. Robinson.—You are a guardian, and have been for some time?—Yes.

5898. What is your opinion on this subject of amalgamation?—There are three things necessary to consider. It should not be forgotten that a good deal of the distress, or at least the financial difficulty prevailing, is due to the different Acts of Parliament more or less recently passed. These have imposed great burthens upon us, and in my opinion they should be borne by the Consolidated Fund. I refer to the Vaccination, the Registration, the Cattle Diseases Act, the Medical Charities Act, and the Juries Acts. These should, in my opinion, be paid out of the Consolidated Fund, and that would be a saving not alone to the Treasury, but to us, if you give us back the townlands that originally belonged to this union, with that portion of Castles, now in the county Mayo, and have union rating in relief of the congested districts.

5899. Mr. Robinson.—You now refer to two points which we cannot include in our inquiry—union rating and the incidence of taxation. But with regard to amalgamation, what is your opinion?—I believe it

would be impossible for us to get on if something like that is not done. Unless there is some such remedy applied you will have a recurrence of these scenes of desolation. It is really heartrending to see the people who require this relief, and to witness the demoralising scenes connected with it.

5900. Mr. Robinson.—What do you consider too high a rate to be levied in the union, would you say 2s. 8d.?—That would be considerable; it would simply be a famine rate this year. There has been a falling off this year as well as last in the earnings in England. I heard you refer to 1861 and 1870. In those years people from this locality who went to England, who now do not send over £3 or £4, were sometimes able to send over £25 or £30.

5901. Was that the case in '41, '42, or '43—they were not good years in Ireland?—From '62 to '70 and '73, they were really good years.

5902. But in '61 there was no outdoor relief?—There was private charity then to meet the distress, and there was a Mansion House Fund.

5903. And that prevented the necessity for outdoor relief?—Yes.

Mr. Michael Doyle, F.R.C.S., sworn.

Mr. Michael
Doyle.

5904. Mr. Robinson.—You represent the Kiltinagh Electoral Division?—Yes.

5905. Have you any observations to make on the subject of amalgamation?—I agree with what Mr. Stannion said, and what the clerk of the union said as to amalgamation. In my division we have about 700 or 800 small tenements, holdings of 2, 3, or 5 acres, a great many valued under £5, and we have congested towns and villages. Both Mr. Moran, the permanent relieving officer, and myself, have done our very best to keep down the outdoor relief, and, in fact, to see that none get it without a doctor's certificate. The poverty of the people is so great, and the villages so congested, that a great deal of outdoor

relief has to be given. These poor people were sent from the good lands and fertile places of other unions and other parts of the country, and until we got these people back again we will always have poverty.

5906. Where were the Kiltinagh people removed from?—From places where there is nothing now but sheep and bullocks, and you must always have this poverty until you have these people back, and the sheep and bullocks sent elsewhere. There should be factories and mills for the employment of the children of these people, for it is a cruel thing to think of that these people have to depend for the payment of their rent on the earnings of their children in exile in England or America.

Mr. Cornelius Dodd, F.R.C.S., sworn.

Mr. Cornelius
Dodd.

5907. Mr. Robinson.—What is your view on the subject of amalgamation?—Do you concur with the evidence that has been given?—As far as the question of amalgamation is concerned I would be for it. I believe the area of Swinford is not properly laid down at all, and it is quite clear that some change is necessary to enable us to get on.

5908. Mr. Robinson.—Could you reduce the

amount of outdoor relief?—I remember a resolution passed here ordering the relieving officers to be very careful, and the guardians gave the matter every consideration, and, indeed, brought great pressure on the relieving officers, and certainly, I believe, the amount has been kept down as low as possible.

5909. Do householders get outdoor relief?—No, unless on a doctor's certificate.

Rev. J. Constable sworn.

Rev. J.
Constable.

5910. Mr. Robinson.—Do you agree with the evidence that has been given?—I disagree with a good deal that has been said. I consider that it would be very wrong to bring in other unions to bear our expenses, which were due to the action of the Local Government Board, and I think it would be dishonest to burden them with our duty. The expenses of this union ought to be seriously looked after. I am obliged to pay 3s. 8d. in the £. A very erroneous doctrine is held here of trifling averages. Supposing I pay 5s. in the £, and my next neighbour pays 1s., that is 6s., and a most unfair average is then struck of 3s. The relief has been administered in a way that must have struck your attention. You have heard people, who received relief, swearing that they were not destitute at all, and that is a thing the Local Government Board ought to look to.

5911. Mr. Robinson.—What has the Local Government Board to do with that?—They could have had some one of their own men to come down

and investigate the thing, and see if these people were really in want.

5912. But is that the duty of the Local Government Board?—That is my opinion.

5913. Mr. Robinson.—Are you aware that the Local Government Board are prohibited from interfering in individual cases of relief?—But this applies to half the people.

5914. You refer to particular cases of abuse?—I refer to wholesale abuse.

5915. Can you give some instances?—No, it might be dangerous to do so. Lord Arima, I may mention, did a good thing, he sent agriculturists to instruct his tenants, and the result was that where they could not produce three tons of turnips they succeeded in producing thirty. I think you ought to have inspectors here to instruct the people as to the destruction of weeds. All these burthens, such as the vaccination, &c., should be taken off the union. It should be a general charge.

5913. Mr. Redington.—Would you have no objection to pay for the vaccination of the people in Dublin?—I think the charge should be general over the country.

5914. You would have no objection to pay your proportion of the vaccination charges for Dublin and Belfast then?—I am speaking of Swineford Union.

5915. If you had an enlarged area could you bear these charges?—Yes, perhaps, but it would be dishonest to bring others in to bear our charges.

5916. Would you make those whom you would bring in bear their own burdens?—Yes, their own clerical division burdens and the charges of collectors and relieving officers.

Swineford.
Rev. J.
Constable.

Thomas A. Keene, Rate Collector, sworn.

5917. Mr. Robinson.—You are a rate collector?—Yes.

5918. When did you receive your warrant?—In April.

5919. What was the amount?—£1,171.

5920. How much have you collected?—£810 9s. 9d.

5921. And uncollected?—£361. I should say, however, that some of that has been collected.

5922. Of the amount uncollected how much is irrecoverable?—Not much.

5923. Why have you not collected that?—A good deal of it is due by landlords, and Mr. Mannion has

taken proceedings. There is one property of the Messrs. Gallagher, and it is about being sold.

5924. Have you taken proceedings against every defaulter?—Yes, there are few defaulters, but proceedings have been taken in such cases as there are.

5925. So that there may be more recovered very soon?—Yes; there are debts in hand.

5926. How many months had you for collection?—Six.

5927. How much was carried forward in arrears at the last rate?—About £300.

Mr Thomas A.
Keene.

Thomas Campbell, Rate Collector, sworn.

5928. Mr. Robinson.—When did you receive your warrant?—In May.

5929. What was the amount?—£1,600.

5930. How much has been collected?—There is £800 outstanding.

5931. Of this who is the greater part due by?—Three or four landlords.

5932. Have you taken proceedings?—I have.

5933. What proceedings?—There was an order about a fortnight ago against the under rated occupiers for £40, and I am almost sure to be paid within a week.

5934. Can all the £200 be recovered?—Yes, except I believe £3 or £4.

5935. When must you close your books?—We have got an extension for another month. I should say there are a number of evicted holdings in question.

5936. Have you applied to the landlords?—Yes, in some cases, and they would not reply, but held that they were not liable.

5937. You do not think there will be much irrecoverable?—No, I do not.

Mr. McDevitt.—The County Court Judge decided in a number of cases brought forward that when the rate is due for two years they could not be recovered against a succeeding occupier.

Mr Thomas
Campbell.

John Moran, Rate Collector, sworn.

5938. Mr. Robinson.—When did you get your warrant?—In May.

5939. What is the amount?—£1,160.

5940. How much has been collected?—About £1,000.

5941. So there is only about £100 outstanding?—Yes, and there is £60 lodged.

5942. Who is the outstanding £100 due by?—By poor occupiers and one or two landlords.

5943. Have you taken proceedings against them?—Yes.

5944. Have you endeavoured to seize?—Yes, several times.

5945. Do you anticipate that all this will be recoverable?—Yes.

5946. How much of the £100 is due by the landlords?—About one half.

5947. I see Mr. George Brown owes £20. Have you taken any proceedings there?—Yes; there is a fifteen days' notice, and he promised to pay in a few days.

5948. Are the proceedings pending against him?—Yes. He will pay.

5949. Have proceedings been taken in nearly every case?—Yes.

Mr. John
Moran.

J. Costello, Rate Collector, sworn.

5950. Mr. Robinson.—What is the amount of your warrant?—I am not aware. About £1,300.

5951. How much is uncollected?—There is £13 13s. 9d., £30 15s. 9d., and £106 9s. 11d. £137 of that is due by the landlord.

5952. Who is the landlord?—Mr. James Traffo.

5953. Have you taken proceedings?—Mr. Mannion has.

5954. When?—Within the last fortnight.

5955. I see £128 8s. 11d. in Kilmoree due, why is that not collected?—Some of it is in hands.

5956. How much?—About £37 odd.

5957. There is £40 and £18 in Urish, why is that not collected?—A good deal, if not all, will be collected.

5958. Is any of this irrecoverable?—There are some waste lands—evicted lands.

5959. Can't you proceed against the landlord?—There are caretakers there.

5960. Have you marked what is irrecoverable?—No.

Mr. J. Costello.

Witness.
Mr Thomas C
Mulligan.

Thomas C. Mulligan, Rate Collector, sworn.

5961. Mr. Robinson.—How much is your warrant for?
—I am not quite sure.
5962. When did you receive it?—About the 20th of June.
5963. Has your time expired?—No.
5964. What amount is collected?—£297 13s.
5965. What is the total amount of arrears?—£165 is due by Lord Dillon.
5966. Why has he not paid?—He promised, and now he seems to have changed his mind. I am in the hands of the guardians. In Kilbegg there is £279, and of that Lord Dillon owes £177 3s.

5967. That was due in May?—Yes.
5968. Did he not get his November rents?—No.
5969. When did you first apply?—Months ago. There has been a change of agency, and it was before that.
Mr. Stansfeld.—In October a resolution was passed that the several rate collectors be called before the board, and directed to use greater diligence in the collection of the rates.
5970. Mr. Robinson.—Are there any very substantial arrears due except Lord Dillon's?—No.
Inquiry terminated.

Dec 12, 1886.
CLIFDEN.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 1886.

CLIFDEN UNION.

The Commissioners opened the Inquiry, at Eleven o'clock, in the Boardroom of the Workhouse.

Mr. John Burke, Clerk of Clifden Union, sworn.

Mr John
Burke.

5971. Mr. Robinson.—Here is a return of the expenditure under the Poor Relief Act, 1885, is that a correct return?—Yes.

5972. The expenditure for outdoor relief was £7,254 1s. 6d., implements and salaries, £242 3s. 8d., total £7,496 3s. 2d.—That is correct.

5973. How much of the second column is for salaries?—I think £117 for implements, and the rest for salaries.

5974. Does that include remuneration for yourself?—Yes.

5975. And the accounts are now in, so that this return is substantially correct?—Substantially correct.

5976. We have also a return of the grants under the Poor Relief Act, 1885, is that correct also?—That is correct.

5977. Since then a sum has come down?—The money has not come, but the document has come.

5978. Do you know how much has come down?—£53, £4,369, and £5. Making altogether £4,427 1s. 10d. Leaving a balance due by the Union of £3,074 1s. 10d.—That is so.

5979. The return is correct?—Yes.

5980. Here is a return of the out-door relief under the Poor Relief Act in the Electoral Divisions of this Union?—I have checked the return of cases and persons and it is correct.

5981. Within what dates?—15th May to the 15th July inclusive. I wish you to explain a slight discrepancy, in the Parliamentary return which is sent up from this Union, there are 50 cases on the 1st May, and 125 on the 5th May, which are not included in this return?—That was out-door relief previous to the issue of the Local Government Board's order, and went directly to the divisions.

5982. Under the ordinary Act?—Under the ordinary Act.

5983. Were they cases which came legitimately under the ordinary Act?—Yes.

5984. And therefore this return should be amended by the omission of these?—Yes.

5985. Here is a return showing the amount of out-door relief given from the 2nd January to 25th September, under the ordinary Act, is that correct?—That is correct.

5986. When the Poor Relief Act came into operation you did not include any of the cases that were in receipt of relief under the ordinary Act?—I kept them separate all through.

5987. Here is a return of the admissions to the Workhouse?—They are made out by the master, and checked by me, and they are correct.

5988. Mr. Robinson.—The order of the Local Government Board was received on the 11th May?—It is dated 11th May.

5989. On the 20th April you received a letter from the Local Government Board authorising you to anticipate this order?—Yes.

5990. When did the Guardians consider that letter of the 20th April?—It was read on that day, but the Friday they considered the matter of giving exceptional out-door relief on the application of the Rev. Father Flannery.

5991. When was that?—14th April, 1886.

5992. But when they received the letter of the 20th April how soon after that date did the Guardians authorize the commencement of relief work?—On the 5th May.

5993. What were the orders made on the 5th May?—On the 28th April there was an order made as follows:—"That in anticipation of the Relief of Distress Act, the guardians of each district are requested to make out by this week, a list of useful works in the most central and congested districts, such as roads, passages, boat slips, etc., for the employment of distressed persons in the district, and in the meantime, the relieving officers are hereby authorized to afford relief to extreme cases," and on the same date the Rev. Thomas J. Flannery, F.P., applied to the guardians for immediate assistance in the way of relief work, etc. An amendment was proposed by John O'Loughlin—"That public works be started at once under the labour test, according to the suggestion of Father Flannery." For the resolution, 11; against it, 9.

5994. So that the public works were not started?—Not at that date.

5995. On the 5th of May were any lists of works submitted to the guardians?—Yes.

5996. What order did the guardians make then?—"Resolved that all parties concerned in these works get tickets and go to whatever shop they like to get their goods from, the meal to be given at workhouse contract price." The clerk submitted a schedule of works proposed to be carried out in the several electoral divisions of the union, and after considerable discussion certain roads were agreed upon to be opened for work under the Relief of Distress Act. Several

propositions were put forward as to the appointment of assistant relieving officers or superintendents of labour, none of which seemed to meet the wishes of the guardians.

5997. Was there no further entry on that date?—No.

5998. I see in a copy of the minutes sent to the Local Government Board something about "much confusion having arisen, the chairman adjourned the meeting." Was that resolution entered on the minutes?—Yes, the one you have already got.

5999. The only act which obtained the sanction of the guardians on that day was that works were to be opened?—Yes.

6000. But nothing is on record as to what works were to be opened?—No.

6001. Were they opened that day?—Yes.

6002. And were instructions given verbally to the relieving officers as to the opening of the works?—Yes.

6003. What was the nature of the instructions?—All the guardians did was to order works to be opened.

6004. Was it then left to the discretion of the relieving officers to decide upon the works?—My recollection is that it was.

6005. When did the board meet again after that?—On the 12th. There was a letter dated 11th May, stating that the guardians should enter into contracts (that was in reply to the resolution saying they were to get the food wherever they liked), and that meat for outdoor relief should be obtained from such persons as entered into the contracts.

6006. When this order was made on the 4th May did they agree to specify the works, or did they merely say that works were to be opened?—Merely that works should be opened.

6007. Did they fix the amount of food to be given to persons working on these roads?—Not definitely; it was talked about and discussed.

6008. But no resolution was come to?—No; they considered that owing to the circular of the Local Government Board all parties were entitled to 1s. 6d. a day, and in some cases that was given.

6009. Come to the 6th of May; what number of persons had been put upon relief by the relieving officers during the week between the 6th May and the following week?—The numbers on outdoor relief on the 6th May went up to 1,179. That was the number put on in pursuance of the agreement with the relieving officers on the preceding week.

6010. When was the next meeting?—The 11th May.

6011. Did all the relieving officers attend on that day, and submit their books?—I could not exactly say.

6012. Can you recollect whether all the books were written up?—The books were in a fair way up to that date.

6013. When the relieving officers met the guardians after they had put on persons, did they write up the books to date?—The application and report books were all written up to date, but the relief lists were not.

6014. Do you mean to say that throughout the whole of this serious distress the application and report books were all written up to date?—No; a great rush came on then, and next week there were 17,276 persons on outdoor relief, and it was impossible to write them up.

6015. They were not written up then?—No.

6016. You checked the application and report books from week to week?—Not generally. I always compared the relief list with the application and report book.

6017. After that occasion they were not written up?—No, nor they could not be.

6018. How many assistant relieving officers were appointed?—Andrew Lydon got three, Canavan was

to get three, but he only got two, and Joyce got his own assistant.

6019. So that there were six additional relieving officers?—Yes.

6020. What is the history of the one who was not sanctioned?—The Local Government Board refused to sanction the appointment.

6021. Were the duties of these relieving officers defined by the guardians?—They were to assist the principal relieving officers generally, but the principal relieving officers were to be held responsible in all cases.

6022. The appointment of these six assistant relieving officers did not lessen the responsibility of the chief relieving officers in any way?—No.

6023. Who were the application and report books supposed to be written up by?—By both.

6024. Was each permanent relieving officer allowed to make whatever arrangement he liked with his own assistants?—Yes.

6025. Were any contracts taken for the supply of meat?—Yes.

6026. How many depots were arranged?—There were no depots arranged, but there was a contractor for each electoral division.

6027. Were these contractors conveniently situated within the electoral divisions for which they were appointed?—Fairly so.

6028. Were any orders made by the guardians as to the payment for the meat, otherwise by ticket?—By ticket.

6029. Were there any orders on record, any rules laid down for the guidance of the relieving officers?—Well, there were no definite rules but they got instructions—directions—generally here before the board.

6030. They were verbal?—Yes.

6031. When the application and report books got into arrears how long was it before the officers were able to write them up to date?—In some cases they were two or three weeks, and in some more before they could complete them. As a matter of fact, I suppose some of them were not completed for four or five weeks; they merely took down the names in the first instance and they were so numerous they did not enter them up properly; then they were obliged to take the number in family in working out the returns.

6032. Can you fix the date when the application and report books were absolutely finished and completed?—I would say they were not thoroughly completed until the thing was nearly all over.

6033. In the case of every relieving officer were they not thoroughly completed until it was over?—No.

6034. When were the relief lists completed?—They are not completed at present.

6035. Is the money portion completed?—Yes, but no other portion.

6036. Is the statistical portion completed?—Not in every case.

6037. Is it completed in any case?—Lydon has it completed I think.

6038. You cannot be perfectly certain of the accuracy of these?—No, but I believe them to be substantially accurate.

6039. Do you think the totals are much out?—No, I think one with another they will be perfectly fair.

6040. For the purpose of the ruling of the books, how often did the guardians meet?—Regularly, every board day, and some weeks two or three times spending hours and hours trying to check them; they did their very best, they sat late and early and went over them.

6041. Did they order relief to be given for the following week?—They did not exactly do that, but they reduced the amount—they entered on the face of the book that a man who got 7s. was to be reduced perhaps to 4s.—they endeavoured to check them as well as they could.

6042. Then all relief was given provisionally?—

Witness.
Mr John Burke.

Witness.
Mr. John
Buckley.

Yes, all provisionally, really the board of guardians did their best in the matter.

6043. But the relief got the start of them?—The relief came on with such a rush, there was no control of it, and the great work was to pick it up and enter it on the books.

6044. The relieving officers had full power?—Yes, and they did what they liked.

6045. They were able to determine the amount of work to be given in each case, and as to whether a man might work or not?—I don't say they were able to go into each case specially.

6046. Did the relieving officers take instructions from the guardians outside the boardroom?—Not much I think—not to any great extent.

6047. Anything you know about the relief is confined to what took place in the boardroom?—Yes, except that I know there was a good deal of distress in the union. At one time perhaps a thousand would gather outside here, and Lydon came and said he would give up the whole thing as they were breaking into his shop. I was obliged to give him the registry office here, and the applicants were so many that no work could be done here.

6048. How did you order the tools?—By contract.

6049. What has become of them?—They are here.

6050. Are you going to sell them?—Certainly.

6051. Do you remember the amount paid for them?—I do; it was £117.

6052. Are you aware whether any tickets were presented to the contractor any length of time after they were issued, or was there any outstanding?—In some cases the contractors had not the supply for them and there might be some little delay, but as a general rule they were presented very fairly.

6053. Were the applicants authorized to receive meal from any contractor other than the one in their own district?—No; they were all to go to their own contractor—failing him, then he gave their ticket over to someone else.

6054. Mr. Robinson.—Did you say there were 1,189 people on relief in the week ending 8th May?—I think so.

6055. Were they in receipt of relief under the Poor Relief Act?—Some of them were—1,179.

6056. Were they in receipt of relief under the Poor Relief Act?—The ordinary relief—some of them—633 of them were relieved under the ordinary relief, and, of course, they were charged to the electoral divisions.

6057. But any that were relieved under the Act ought to be in the return?—Yes; it was previous to the sealed order—the sealed order was not until the 11th May.

6058. Mr. Robinson.—This number relieved on the 8th May—when were they returned to you as having been relieved?—It was a couple of weeks afterwards. The Local Government Board sent us back the returns, and I was obliged to alter the whole thing again.

6059. Mr. Robinson.—Did the weeks begin on the week ending the 8th May or the 13th May?—The week ending the 15th May.

6060. Mr. Robinson.—You said there were 1,179 people on the works in the week ending the 8th May?—1,179.

6061. Were they on the public works?—They were put on that week but they were not charged until the week ending the 15th May.

6062. They would not be before the guardians as they were provisionally relieved?—No.

6063. So that they are included in the number I have in the return on the 15th May?—They are.

6064. When do you think the distress was at its height—what time of the year?—There was a good deal of distress during the year. Early in July there were many complaints about the potato crop. I represented the matter to the Local Government Board, and Mr. Meade was sent down here specially, and I think other inspectors were sent to other parts of the coast, and I believe it was owing to their representations that the Relief Act was principally got up. The distress went on until April and March. The weather was then very rough, and there was scarcely any fodder for the cattle. What little potatoes they had then for seed they gave to the cattle to keep the cattle alive. Then matters became very serious. Mr. Tuohy came then and distributed about 500 tons of potatoes. That gave a great deal of relief and a bit of labour here and there that kept them on until early in May, and they then began to go about in hundreds looking for relief.

6065. At what period was the distress at its height?—In mid-June and July.

6066. Which of these months was the worst?—I think June.

6067. What are the poorest divisions in the union?—Baneween is a poor division, and portion of Glenties is very poor. There is a great deal of poverty in Clifden. There is portion of Brehannan bad, and Innishelton in very bad, and Sclerona also.

6068. You don't know Knockbeg?—No; I could not speak as to that.

6069. But Sclerona is very bad?—They are all little bits of holdings valued from a few shillings to £5, and the people there were in very great distress.

6070. Was there an increase in the number of admissions to the workhouse before the Relief Act passed?—Previous to the issue of the outdoor relief there was some increase, but not very much.

6071. April 8th there were 3 admissions; April 10th, 12 admissions; April 17th, 2 admissions; April 24th, 7 admissions; May 1st, 3 admissions; May 8th, 5 admissions. There is not any very material increase?—No; not a very material increase.

6072. From your knowledge of the union, do you think that the ordinary outdoor relief would have sufficed to keep the people from starvation?—I am quite sure it would not.

6073. There was an increase in the outdoor relief before the Act passed?—Yes.

6074. On the 17th April, the number on outdoor relief was 399; on the 24th 480; on the 1st May, 633; on the 8th May, 1,179—then it fell to 296 when the Relief Act came in?—Yes.

6075. How do you distinguish between the cases under the Relief Act and the ordinary outdoor relief cases?—The ordinary cases are all old people, and the number remains very much the same.

Andrew Lydon, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Mr. Andrew
Lydon.

6077. Mr. Robinson.—How long have you been relieving officer?—For about thirteen years.

6078. You administered the Relief Acts of the past years?—Yes, in all these past years.

6079. What is your opinion as to these recent years as compared with past years, as regards the poverty of the people?—I think this year is worse than any of them.

6080. Do you think that the distress was more widespread, or that individual cases were more acute?—The distress was more widespread. In March I travelled a good part of the district of Baneween,

and the meeting of Roundstone, and I never saw such poverty in my life. They were going out in droves on the road, and I think that week I could come up to about £25 outdoor relief.

6081. On the 5th of May there was a discussion at the board-room here, when relief works were ordered to be commenced?—Yes.

6082. What did you understand from the meeting of the guardians that you were to do?—There was no definite resolution beyond that works were agreed to.

6083. Were you instructed to put on people on the

CHURCH.
—
Mr. Andrew
Lyden.

works?—No; I did not put on people. They were put on by the gasfitters.

6084. Not by resolution?—I am not aware of that.

6085. Who put them on the works?—I suppose they agreed here to do it. But I am not sure of that. They put them on the work on the roads afterwards.

6086. Then, when you came to the works you found the people there?—Yes.

6087. Have you any knowledge as to whether the gasfitters put them on the work?—I have not.

6088. Do you remember when the works were just started in your district?—I do.

6089. What was the date?—I am not sure of the date.

6090. All you know is, that you found the people working at them?—Yes.

6091. What did you do then—did you take the names of the persons working?—The gangmen brought in the names.

6092. And then did you issue tickets for the relief?—Yes.

6093. And all you had to do was to issue tickets for the relief?—Yes.

6094. How many assistants were given you?—I think it was three.

6095. What were the duties of the assistants?—To help me generally.

6096. What was the nature of the help they afforded you?—The issuing of tickets, and the entering of them on the report books. They had plenty to do.

6097. In the first instance no application was made to you by the persons who wanted to get on the works?—No, sir.

6098. Did you make any inquiry as to the circumstances of the people you found on the works?—I knew them.

6099. No doubt you knew them; but surely you did not know their circumstances from day to day, so as to know whether they were fit persons to be in the works?—I knew very well they wanted relief.

6100. You did not know the state of a man's finances from day to day?—No, certainly not.

6101. You knew the men personally?—Yes.

6102. But as a matter of fact, you did not visit the homes of the applicants, so as to see in what condition they were?—No, I did not. It was impossible to do so. There was no time. There was too many.

6103. Could you and your three assistants have visited the homes of the applicants?—No.

6104. Then what steps did you take to ascertain whether the persons were destitute or not—or did you take any?—I did not take any, because I understood I was to pay them for their labour. And they worked, and I knew they were poor.

6105. Did you think that as long as they did a fair day's work they were to get a fair day's wage?—I knew they were poor besides, and I knew that great poverty existed.

6106. Did you consider you were bound to pay every man that worked?—I thought so.

6107. How often did you issue these tickets?—Every week. And sometimes it would run into the middle of the next week before I could finish them up.

6108. Was not that running a great risk?—Well, I could not finish them all up on Saturday night.

6109. Did you give tickets on the Saturday for the work which they had done during the previous week?—Yes.

6110. Don't you think it was rather risky, then, to be issuing tickets in that way?—The people that worked this week came to me on the Saturday, but it was impossible for me to give them all the tickets on Saturday. I used to work on Sunday and on Monday, and often until Tuesday, giving them the tickets for the work up to the Saturday.

6110. How did the people last throughout the week for food when they had not got the tickets?—I don't know. I could not do any more if I were to die on the spot.

6111. Can you remember among the people you saw on the works when they were first started—were there any you considered not destitute?—There were a few exceptions—very few, indeed—in my district.

6112. Do you know by what individual guardians they were put on the works?—No.

6113. In fact you just found them there?—Yes.

6114. What were many works in your district?—I think 83 or 84.

6115. Different works?—Yes.

6116. Were they some distance apart?—Yes.

6117. In convenient localities throughout the district?—Yes.

6118. Were you able to visit the works every day?—I could not do it.

6119. Who were the gangmen appointed—were they some of the poor people themselves?—Yes.

6120. Were they paid by the rates of the unions or by relief?—They were paid by relief.

6121. Did they return you a list of the persons who worked every week?—Yes.

6122. Then you had to write out the tickets?—Yes.

6123. So that every Saturday you had to write out some dozens of tickets?—Yes.

6124. Did you put the amounts on the tickets that a man was to receive in each case?—Yes.

6125. How did you determine the amount he was to receive?—It was left to my own discretion, and I thought that so, a week was fair.

6126. Did you vary it?—In case of a man having more of a family I did. If a man had ten or twelve in family I would give him 9s.; and some had twelve or fourteen in family.

6127. Did not you find some difficulty in determining accurately the amount of relief each man was to get?—I thought so, on an average would be fair.

6128. You would not give them relief unless they did the labour test—was that the idea?—I would certainly give them relief.

6129. We know the way you gave relief to persons who were able to do the labour test. But how did you relieve persons who were unable to work—did they make applications to you?—They did—that is, sick persons.

6130. They made application to you direct?—Yes, some of the children came.

6131. I suppose there was some pressure at the time and some confusion?—Yes.

6132. If you had told some of these people you did not think them destitute and to go off the works, would you have power to compel them to do so?—No, I would not.

6133. If you had had more assistants you might have done better?—No; not in the way of putting them off the works.

6134. As to the writing up of the application and report books—when did you write them up?—As the gangmen came in for the tickets.

6135. For what tickets?—For the relief tickets.

And before I gave them I wrote out the amount each person was to get. And before I gave them that list I got myself and the assistants to enter it on the application and report book before I gave it up to him.

6136. How much did they put on the application and report book?—Just the amount given by the orders.

6137. Did they fill up the application and report books as full, or merely the names and the amount?—Not in full.

6138. Did they put in any information about the case?—No.

6139. Were you able to put in the electoral division or the township?—In some cases; but I had not time to give any information.

Witness
Mr. Andrew
Lydon.

6140. How did you determine the chargeability of persons relieved?—When writing up the book I knew the people.

6141. Here there was a man named John Murphy. If his address was put in blank, how did you know to which of the John Murphys it referred?—I knew every one of them—nearly—that has chargeability to the several electoral divisions in the Clifton district. In the Clifton division all the people newly worked in this division, and there were no reports came in.

6142. Did the application and report books ever get into arrears?—They did.

6143. How long had they got into arrears?—There would be a fortnight when there was a great rush. I drew up the names on a list, and marked on the list the amount given to them, and the date at the top till such date as I could put it in the book.

6144. Then you were able to check it by the ticket?—Yes.

6145. Did you get back the checks from the contractors?—No; they hold the checks.

6146. You were obliged to return to the clerk work by week a list of the persons in receipt of relief?—Yes.

6147. In the case where the application and report book was not written up how did you give the information?—I averaged them. I had not the information required at the time.

6148. Do you think your averages were pretty fair?—Yes; I think it was as fair as I could go.

6149. When did you complete the out-door relief list?—Afterwards.

6150. After the whole thing was over?—Yes.

6151. Were you able to write up from week to week any portion of it before the relief works were stopped?—I had it all written up.

6152. Were you able to write up the statistical portion of it?—Yes, sir; week by week according as I had time when the gangmen came in.

6153. Having regard to the fact that the people who were put on the relief works were not put on by you, have you any reason for knowing that persons from the adjoining divisions were not put on your division?—There were no cases. I often went there myself—at once as I could—and I examined the men.

6154. When the gangmen returned the list of men that were working did they put the address of the person in each case?—Yes, I think so.

6155. Did you instruct the gangmen as to the time each person was to work, or did the gangmen take that upon themselves?—I told them they were to work six days in the week, and then it was altered by the guardians to work three days in the week in order to give them time to do some little work for themselves.

6156. Do you know whether your instructions were properly carried out by the gangmen?—I think they were.

6157. Did you ever find persons not working when you came there?—I always found them working.

6158. What was the number in family employed in each work—was it only the head of the family?—Only one in each family.

6159. Were your assistants authorized to sign tickets?—They were.

6160. When you signed the tickets did you sign the blocks?—When they filled the ticket they filled the block also.

6161. Did they sign the blocks—for supposing there was a difficulty about a ticket transpiring afterwards, how would you know who issued it?—I knew the handwriting of the three.

6162. They wrote differently (block produced)?—Yes, that is my brother's.

6163. Do you know whether any of the tickets were presented some time after they were given, or immediately?—As soon as they could they were presented.

6164. Do you know whether anything was ever given to the persons on your tickets in place of the article specified on the tickets?—There was nothing specified on the tickets but the amount of 6s. and 8s.

6165. So that they might take the whole of any food they liked?—Yes, but I think they took nothing but meat and flour.

6166. Do you think they might have taken any thing they liked. There was nothing to prevent them taking whiskey?—I don't know.

6167. Who was the contractor in your district?—Mr. Joseph Gorman.

6168. Who is he?—He lives in Clifton.

6169. What is he?—A merchant.

6170. Has he a public-house?—Yes.

6171. Has he a meal store?—Yes.

6172. He is one of the principal merchants in the town?—Yes.

6173. Were there any other contractors in your district?—There were.

6174. Who were they?—There was Mr. Michael O'Malley.

6175. Were you ever consulted as to the persons who were to be put on the relief works at all?—No. Not the first week.

6176. Were you any other time afterwards?—Yes. All the names came then before the board.

6177. Then the guardians did not give you instructions who you were to put on?—No.

6178. We see that all the relief given was given as provisional relief?—Yes.

6179. Was there any case where the guardians absolutely decided whom you were to put on in the following week?—No.

6180. Then they did it out of the board-room?—I am not sure where they did it. But the people were working and I saw them working. And I gave them the tickets.

6181. Do you think there was any abuse at all—that is to say, were there persons employed who ought not to have been employed?—I think there were not. There were a few cases who could do without it, but only a few cases.

6182. What sort of a place has Mr. O'Malley?—A public house and meal-store.

6183. Who is the next contractor?—There is another, but he is not a contractor, he is in "Co." with O'Malley. A man named Lydon.

6184. Does he keep a public-house?—No.

6185. Any other contractors?—No; I think not.

6186. Were any tickets signed but by yourself and your assistants?—No, sir.

6187. What was the nature of the work carried out in your division?—Roads.

6188. Were they works of utility?—Yes; a good many of them.

6189. How were the contractors' accounts checked or were they checked at all?—Yes. The contractors sent in their accounts and they hold the tickets still.

6190. Had the contractors' accounts been paid for everything?—No; they had not.

6191. Is there much due?—I think there is about half due to them.

6192. They hold the tickets pending a settlement?—Yes.

6193. How were the contractors' accounts checked—in the boardroom here, or have they been checked?—I don't know.

Mr. J. Burke, clerk.—They have not been checked—the whole of them.

6194. Mr. Robinson.—You say all the relief was provisional?—Yes.

6195. And are you not responsible for that?—Yes.

6196. Did you not say that the guardians put men on the works, and you knew nothing about it until

you came to the works?—I knew that the people were on the works.

6197. Did you select the people who were to be put on the works?—No.

6198. Was it not your duty to give provisional relief—and don't you understand what provisional relief is?—I do.

6199. And you say that all the relief given under this Act was given provisionally?—Yes.

6200. And yet there were persons put on the works without you knowing anything about it?—The guardians did it.

6201. Then it was not provisional relief?—The guardians put the people on the work.

6202. Did they put them on the work by resolution?—I am not aware of that. I never attend here except to get my own books done.

6203. Did you ever see any minute of the guardians authorising so and so to get relief?—No.

6204. How did you know the guardians put these people on the works?—There was a good deal of talk about it.

6205. Then it was only rumour?—Yes.

6206. Mr. Robinson.—Did not you say that the people were put on the works by the guardians and the priest?—Yes.

6207. Did you get any assistance from the clergyman?—Yes, sir.

6208. Mr. Redington.—Do you know of your own knowledge who put these people on the works?—I believe it was the guardians and the priest.

6209. I have asked you about the guardians and you cannot prove that you ever saw a minute of the guardians ordering relief to any of these persons?—No.

6210. Then how did you know the guardians put them on?—I heard it here in the board-room.

6211. When guardians put people on relief don't they enter it on the books?—I believe it was done verbally.

6212. Mr. Robinson.—Was it decided outside the board-room or inside it—where was it done?—It was here in the board-room that I heard the talk.

6213. When they were put on outside were the cases considered by the guardians in the board-room or outside of it?—They were considered in the board-room.

6214. What guardians were they put on by?—I am not sure what guardians attended that day.

6215. Mr. Redington.—Did you hear discussion of the cases?—In each case?

6215a. Yes!—Oh, not at all.

6216. How do you know the works were ordered at all?—The works were talked of in the board-room.

6217. But as to the persons you found on the works, you say that the guardians put them on the works; what ground have you for that statement?—I did not see the guardians put the people on the works, but when I went there I seen them working.

6218. But you do not know who put them on?—No.

6219. Was it not your duty to investigate into their circumstances to see whether they were fit persons to receive relief?—So I did afterwards.

6220. Before you gave the tickets?—Yes.

6221. What inquiry did you make?—I seen the parties working and I knew they required relief.

6222. You knew they all did?—Yes.

6223. Did you make any inquiry—did you go to their houses?—I went to Faby the first week. There was a man come on the previous Saturday, and I seen him that day working; he told me he was working on the road that day.

6224. Did you go to the houses of many of them?—No; not many.

6225. What are your divisions?—Banowen, Clifden, Derryke, Donoughman, and Errishman.

6226. Do you remember the stoppage of relief in many of the divisions on the 12th of June?—There was one week we did not give relief.

6227. Take the 12th of June now in Banowen—that is one of your divisions. There were 1,241 people in receipt of relief on the 5th of June, and there were none in receipt of relief on the 12th of June; was there any pressure in consequence—how did they get on during that week when you gave them no relief?—I believe they done with the orders they got the previous week; they had to do.

6228. You gave them enough in the previous week to keep them for two weeks?—I don't know, I am not sure of that. We were prevented giving them any on that week.

6229. You told Mr. Robinson that very few of the people were not destitute, and then I find that for the whole week there was no relief given whatever. What because of the people during that week?—I am not sure. I don't know how they managed.

6230. Don't you know your division?—Yes.

6231. Were any complaints made by them that they were starving?—They came for the tickets, some of them. But I did not give them any. I told them they could not get them.

6232. You don't know what happened to them—they managed to live on that week without any tickets?—Yes.

6233. Now take Clifden division. The number receiving relief dropped in a week from 2,490 persons to 884. Do you consider that all the people receiving relief on the 5th of June were destitute; and, if so, how did the majority of these manage to live in the succeeding week if they were without anything—they lived for a week without anything?—Yes.

6234. When was the distress at its height—what time was the pressure greatest?—I think in June. It was very bad in March and April also.

6235. How do you know it was bad—was there any increase in the number of admissions to the house?—I visited a good number of the cases.

6236. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think it was as bad in March and April as it was in June?—No.

6237. Mr. Redington.—When did you bring up your application and report book to be inspected and ruled by the guardians?—The following week.

6238. Every week all through?—Yes.

6239. So you got it written up to date fully?—There might be some cases that I was not able to do fully.

6240. And the guardians made no ruling on the cases on your book. They left you to continue the relief in a provisional manner?—The reduced the amount.

6241. Every week?—No, not every week, but some weeks.

6242. How did they reduce them?—They reduced the amount from 6s. to 4s.

6243. Did they leave the selection of the cases to you?—When I brought them before the Board they reduced them.

6244. But as regards the persons who were receiving relief, did they leave you to administer relief provisionally to these people; or did they give an order that such an such a person was to get relief?—No. They never made that arrangement. It was all provisional.

6245. Mr. Robinson.—I understand you to say that the guardians in the boardroom never gave you any order as to the people who were put on the works in the following week?—No. I understood that the same parties were to be employed; for I considered that if they wanted to make any change they would have got them struck off.

Cum gratia.
—
Mr. Andrew
Lyden

CROSS-
EXAMINED
BY MR. C. KING, P.L.C.

6246. But outside the boardroom you don't know whether the guardians put them on or not?—I don't as a matter of fact know.

Cross-examined by Mr. C. King, P.L.C.

6247. You are after swearing that you know everyone in your district, and that you know they were in distress. Now the first name I will submit to you is the name of William Coney. Do you know him?—It was impossible for me to know. I did not know that William Coney lived there. I knew it afterwards.

6248. Mr. Matt. Coney, his brother from Bellinaboy—did not you know him before the relief works commenced?—I did not know that he stopped there. I knew the Conys.

6249. Don't you know Matt. Coney's brother?—Yes.

6250. And you know him a long time before the works commenced?—Yes.

6251. Did you give him a ticket?—He was returned on the book.

6252. Did he get a ticket?—Yes.

6253. Was he a ganger on the road?—No, I think not. I am sure of it.

6254. William Coney I am talking of?—Yes, he was.

6255. Do you think he was a fit subject for relief?—I am not exactly sure; I am not very well acquainted with that person.

6256. Do you know what rent his brother, the guardian, is paying?—I don't know.

6257. Don't you know they are living on the same farm together?—Yes. I don't know when he paid rent. Perhaps two or three years.

6258. Did not you know when you were giving the ticket he was not a fit man?—He was a gangster; he was appointed.

6259. By whom?—It was not by me he was appointed.

6260. I reported this matter to the Local Government Board when I found it?—It is his brother who has the farm that Mr. King is talking about.

6261. You know Matt. Coney, of Dooloughlin division. He is the poor-law guardian?—Yes.

6262. Do you know that you gave relief to two men named Stanton and Darken in the division?—Yes.

6263. Did you know their house or anything of who they were?—I knew Stanton well, and often visited him too.

6264. The next case I will ask you about is Matthew Coney's two servant men?—Are not you aware that these men, Stanton and Darken, were two servant men of Mr. Coney?—No.

6265. You made no inquiry who they were?—I had plenty to do.

6266. Did you ever go upon that road from the day it was commenced until the day it was finished?—No.

6267. And you know nothing about it, except what these men brought you?—I had plenty to do.

6268. Mr. Redington—You never went to the road?—No, not this road.

6269. Mr. C. King.—I would ask you to send out summonses for those two men who never worked a day on this road, and Mr. Coney received relief for them. They got whiskey on the tickets (to witnes). In that locality don't you know John Roche?—I do.

6270. Do you know him to be a poor man, and that he is a case that should get outdoor relief?—There are poor in the place.

6271. You know Roche well—that he was a case that should not be relieved?—He was struck off by the Board.

6272. Mr. Robinson.—Did John Roche get more relief than other people?—He had a long family.

6273. While the others were getting 6s. and 8s., he was getting 9s. 1—Yes.

6274. Mr. C. King.—He was the richest man in the division?—He was a ganger.

6275. Was he struck off?—Yes.

6276. Mr. Robinson.—He received relief from the 15th of May to the 15th of June, and he was put on again from the 15th June to the 1st July?—Yes.

6277. Mr. C. King.—Don't you believe you might as well have put your hand in the newspaper's pocket?—He was put on by some of the guardians.

6278. Mr. Robinson.—Would you have put him on?—I don't know if I would have put him on, unless I was authorized by the Board.

6279. Mr. Redington.—Did the guardians put him on?—The guardian from the division heard that Roche was put on, and he attended afterwards and notified it to the Board, but there was no order given by the Board. Then he was put off.

6280. There was no order about Roche getting relief at all?—It was talked of.

6281. What is the meaning of "discharge," opposite the name of J. G. I?—I suppose that is Mr. Gerran.

6282. Is that the order putting him off?—Yes. I believe so.

6283. How did he get relief afterwards?—He was put on again—afterwards.

6284. How did you give him relief provisionally afterwards?—It was talked of here in the Board-room.

6285. Mr. Robinson.—Did you tell the man to go on again?—Yes.

6286. Then you it was who put him on again?—Yes, when I saw the majority of the Board were inclined to put him on.

6287. Mr. C. King.—Was that case discussed here before the guardians again?—It was.

6288. You say that now positively on your oath?—Yes.

6289. Mr. Redington.—That entry on the book—does it mean he was discharged?—Yes.

6290. He got relief after that again?—What date is that?

6291. The 30th of June?—The chairman had discharged a good many of them on that date; and I think some of the members interferred, and said it was a dangerous thing.

6292. Does that "dis" mean he discharged him?—Yes.

6293. And in spite of that you gave him provisional relief next week?—Yes.

6294. Was it because it was a case of necessity?—Although there is "discharge" written to a good many of the cases, I relieved them afterwards. Some of the cases were discharged and the members came in and said it was a dangerous thing to do; and then I gave it in those cases which were discharged.

6295. Is it your ground that this person would have suffered great privation—you must have some grounds for disobeying the order of the Board?—That is my explanation.

6296. Why did you give John Roche relief?—I believed he wanted it as well as the others.

6297. But nothing occurred to alter his condition during that week that made you put him on again? What were your reasons for doing it?—John Roche was put off, and then the guardians came in and interferred next day, and some of the guardians were opposing this case.

6298. Is it because you thought he wanted relief, or was it because some outsider interferred?—No one outside interferred.

6299. Did you mention it the next day?—That is the next board day.

6300. But between the 30th June and the next Board day he was given provisional relief for 6s. 1—The only way I could account for that is that may be it was some of the assistants gave the ticket and did not know.

6300. Mr. C. King.—You are taking it off your own back?—I did the best I could. I don't dare have things go. I did not want to have anything to do with the matter the first day.

6301. Mr. Robinson.—Have you the blocks of that case?—No, I have not any blocks at all.

6302. Mr. Redington.—Did you give relief to Stanton and Durham?—Yes.

6303. Mr. C. King.—These are two servant boys of Mr. Conely, and they never waited a day on the road, and Mr. Conely received relief for them. Young Conely, the son of William Conely, did you give him relief?—He got a ticket.

6304. Did not you know he was a son of Mr. William Conely?—No.

6305. Are you sure of that?—Yes.

6306. Did you find it out at any time?—Yes.

6307. Do not you know it was your business to find it out?—I had too much business to do. I did not know he was a son of Mr. William Conely, for he lived 10 miles from here, and only a few miles from Clifton.

6308. Don't you know Geoffrey Conely, another son of his?—Yes.

6309. Did not you give him relief?—I am not sure. If it is on the book he got it.

6310. I heard you saying that no one supplied coal and flour in Clifton but Mr. Gorham?—Mr. Gorham and "Co."

6311. Was your mother and yourself one of the "Co."?—I don't know.

6312. Is it not a fact that your mother sold some of these goods?—Yes, but what have I to do with my mother?

6313. Mr. Redington.—Was she selling them at her own house?—She keeps a public-house.

6314. And was she a contractor?—Yes, there was a number of contractors. It was Mr. Gorham and "Co."

6315. Mr. C. King.—Was your mother one of those contractors appointed the last time?—Mr. Gorham was one of the chief contractors, and he sent round orders to the others; and the way I filled the tickets was Mr. Gorham and "Co."

6316. Was your mother one of the contractors?—She did supply some of the goods.

6317. Was she one of the contractors?—I am not sure.

6318. Why did you say she was not?—Because I understood you said I was selling stuff.

Mr. J. Barker, Clerk, recalled.

6319. Mr. Redington.—Who were the contractors for coal?—Stephen Wallace, Thomas Neale, Michael O'Malley, and Gorham and Co.

6320. What is the meaning of that "Co."?—A number of the townspeople were included in that.

6321. And their names in it?—No, I had nothing to do with it.

6322. Mr. C. King.—Are their names in the tender?—No, I am sure they are not.

Cross-examination of Mr. Andrew Lyden resumed.

6323. Mr. C. King.—Did you know Mr. Michael Conely?—I don't know that there was such a person.

6324. Would you be surprised to find that it was in your house that this man got goods?—I don't know, indeed. Perhaps it was. It would not be unlikely at all.

6325. Could you tell me what you were charging people for coal and flour?—You know very well I don't know. Upon my oath I don't know.

6326. Do you know what the contractors' price was?—No, I don't know.

6327. Do not you think it would have been right for you to see that the recipient of relief would get value for his money?—I mentioned the amount that each person was to get.

6328. Mr. Redington.—Don't you know the con-

tract price?—I don't know it, indeed. I might have known it at the time.

6329. Mr. C. King.—Don't you know John Conolly?

—Yes.

6330. Did you consider him a man that should have got relief?—He was a gangman also.

6331. Did you give him relief?—I did not put him to work. I did not put any of them to work.

6332. Was not it your business to give him a ticket?—I gave him a ticket; and this case was brought before the Board afterwards and he was kept on.

6333. Don't you know that I reported that matter to the Local Government Board?—Yes.

6334. And still you and the guardians persisted in giving him relief?—You reported the matter to the Inspector who attended at the Board.

6335. Don't you know that Mr. John Conolly is a contractor for this house?—Yes.

6336. Don't you know he is supplying milk here?—No.

6337. Don't you know he owns a large farm?—He was kept on by the Board.

6338. Mr. Redington.—John Conolly is marked to get 3s. on the 5th of June, "J.M."—who is that?—That is Mr. Mullan.

6339. I see this man got 6s. on the 5th of May, and 7s. on the 22nd, and 7s. on the 29th, without any order. And on the 5th of June 7s., and then an order is made on the 18th of June to give him 3s., and then he got 3s. for two weeks, and then there was an order to discharge the case on the 1st of July, and after that he got 4s.—He did.

6340. Can you account for that after the order for discharging him?—I answered that before. There were a lot of these cases discharged and they were interfered with again.

6341. You gave this man provisional relief for four weeks without the guardians making any ruling and therefore you are responsible for the relief so given. And after the order for 3s. was made, there was a further order discharging him, and in spite of that you gave him 4s.—That is not my writing. It was done by one of the assistants.

6342. But it is on your book and you are responsible for it?—Yes.

6343. Do you see that order there signed by W. V. I.—That was done by an assistant. It was impossible for me to do it all myself.

6344. You are responsible for your own book who ever keeps it?—Yes.

6345. Mr. C. King.—James Mullan of Clifton. Did you give him relief?—Yes. Who appointed him?

6346. I don't object to the first week or two?—If I don't mistake it was you who appointed him a gangman.

6347. Mr. Redington.—Did you think he was a fit recipient for relief?—I think he wanted it as much as the others.

6348. Did he want it?—I believe he could do without it.

6349. Mr. C. King.—Stephen Mullan, his brother Thomas is living in the same house with him, and he has a son who is working at the chapel and other places?—Who put Mullan on the work?

6350. Did you give relief to Stephen Mullan?—Yes.

6351. Mr. Robinson.—Why did you give him twice the amount that you gave to the others—he got 8s. and the others only 4s. Do you recollect what he got on by you?—No, I don't recollect.

6352. Mr. Redington.—Did you think he was a man fit to receive relief—has he a farm?—I don't think he has.

6353. Does he live with his father in his farm?—I think he is an old man of 40.

6354. Where does he live?—Lutterden. I think he goes to Scotland now and then.

6355. What are his means?—I don't think he has much means.

6356. Has he a farm?—I am not aware. I don't

cross-examined
Mr. Andrew
Lyden.

CORRAN
—
Mr. Andrew
Lydon.

know much about this man, but there is one Mullin that goes off to Scotland.

6364. And don't you know the man that you gave relief to?—(No answer.)

6365. Mr. C. King.—You know Pat Joyce, of Clifton, the fish man?—Yes.

6366. Did he get relief?—Yes.

6367. How many head of cattle has he to your knowledge?—I am not aware. He has some cattle.

6368. Had not you a right to go and see?—I often see the cattle.

6369. And then you gave him relief?—He has not much. He has a few geese, which he rears at the side of the road.

6370. Has he a farm?—He has not much land. I think only a few pounds worth.

6371. What rent is he paying to Mr. O'Neill?—I don't know.

6372. Don't you know he feeds these cattle along the road?—Yes.

6373. Don't you know he has a leasehold property in the town?—The house he lives in.

6374. Has not he a horse and cart?—Yes.

6375. And you know he was earning 4s. or 5s. a day?—I knew that.

6376. At the time you gave him relief?—Not at the time, I think.

6377. You did not know he was working at the chapel?—I don't think it was at that time. I think it was after.

6378. Don't you know I reported that to the Local Government Board?—All these cases you reported.

6379. Mr. Robinson.—I saw that he got 32s. 1—Yes.

6380. Mr. C. King.—Austin Mulhern; did he get relief?—If his name is on the books he must have got it.

6381. And he could not have done without it?—I think he is a fit case.

6382. Did not you know he was selling fish every day, and has lost money at interest?—Not at all.

6383. Is not he selling fish every day?—His wife may be.

6384. And is not he one of the principal fish buyers in the town?—No, indeed. He is not the principal. He is a poor man, and I consider him a fit man for relief.

6385. Did not you know at the time, after the first week, that you were not supposed to have two out of the same house working on the roads?—I was not aware.

6386. Do you know Pat King, in the town of Clifton?—I do.

6387. Did not you give relief to two of his sons?—It might be the case. There was great confusion at the time. There might be two out of the one house.

6388. And how long is that going on?—It might be a week or two.

6389. Mr. Robinson.—I see he got relief the whole way through.

6390. Mr. C. King.—Is it not a fact that you had another man at the time driving your post-car to Beccles?—Yes.

6391. Then you sent the father to work on one road and the son on the other?—I know his son is in need. His wages is not able to support him.

6392. Mr. Robinson.—Did you give the father relief?—Yes.

6393. Mr. C. King.—And his other son was working in your own employment?—Yes. He is a little fellow.

6394. Mr. Robinson.—Did you give relief to the man who was driving the mail on?—No.

6395. Mr. Robinson.—Is he a farmer?—No he is a poor labouring man.

6396. Mr. C. King.—Pat Joyce, junior, should not be on the relief list. Did you give him relief?—I believe I did.

6397. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think him a fit

case?—I went there and got him off, and I think he was put on by the Board.

6398. Mr. C. King.—By whom?—By the guardians. And he had two grandchildren, and he was going to send them into the workhouse if he did not get relief.

6399. You are going astray altogether?—It might be another man.

6400. John Nee, of the race-course?—Yes, I gave him relief.

6401. Did you think him a fit case?—Yes.

6402. Mr. Robinson.—Has he land?—His father has land.

6403. Does he live with his father?—Yes.

6404. And the father has land?—Yes.

6405. Has he cattle?—He has a heifer or two.

6406. Has he a horse?—No, he has not.

6407. Mr. C. King.—Is not it a fact that he is employed personally with Dr. Curry?—I am not aware. He may be.

6408. Did the son work at all a day on the road?—Indeed I seen him working.

6409. You seen the son working?—Yes.

6410. Did you see him working every week?—No, not every week.

6411. Were you there on the 29th of May?—I don't know. I took no notice of it.

6412. Are you sure it was not his sister working in his place?—I was there, and I seen John Nee working.

6413. Did you see him there every week there working?—I had not time.

6414. Don't you know it was your business?—If it was my business I was not able to do it.

6415. What about Pat Joyce, junior?—I am sure he wanted relief.

6416. Stephen Joyce, of the race-course—did you give him relief?—I am not sure.

6417. Did you give relief to his son?—I don't remember.

6418. Feety Mulhern—did you give him relief?—Yes.

6419. Do you consider him a fit case?—I am not sure. I am not aware about the case.

6420. Mr. Robinson.—Why did you give relief if you were not aware of the case?—He was working on the road. I believe he was a fit case.

6421. Mr. C. King.—You believe it?—Yes.

6422. Did you go and make inquiries?—It was impossible to do that in every case.

6423. Mr. Robinson.—What are his circumstances?—He has a little farm.

6424. How much stock has he?—I don't know how much, if any.

6425. Mr. C. King.—John Stanton—you know him?—Yes.

6426. Do you consider him a fit case?—Yes. I believe every one of them wants relief.

6427. Do you remember Thomas Toole?—I believe every one of these cases wanted relief.

6428. How many head of cattle has John Stanton?—It might be that some of these parties who get relief had cattle. But those parties who had cattle wanted it as much as those who had not cattle. Cattle were no good to them at the time.

6429. Don't you know he has a horse?—He might have.

6430. You made no inquiry as to his means?—I know everyone of them wants it.

6431. Do you know Thomas Toole?—Yes.

6432. Do you know he has a horse?—Yes, I believe he has.

6433. Has he any stock?—Yes, I believe he has some.

6434. What land has he?—I am not aware. I am not sure. He is not paying much. He may be paying 4s or 5s.

6435. Tom Lydon—you gave him relief?—Yes.

6436. And has two sons live in the same house with him?—Yes.

6437. And you consider him a fit case?—Yes.

6438. Martin Magrath—do you consider him a fit case?—[No answer.]

Major D'Arag.—With regard to that case, when there was a road started out there, and when that road passed here, I was anxious that the people should give value for any relief they got, and I thought, and I was satisfied of it, that these roads would be value, and I was anxious that a responsible person, who knew something about it, should be appointed as gangman over the workmen on these roads, so it would be most beneficial. I mentioned this man's name, knowing he was a man who understood it. He was on the road when I went there, and I told Lyden he was a man who ought to be appointed, and I mentioned his name here. As regards the people in this village I had nothing to do with them. They were not my tenants; but I went there to see if they were in distress at the time, and the men that came to work on that road I knew individually, and I believe they were in distress, and I went there every morning between five and six o'clock to see that they worked there, and I say that in this village they gave value to the country for the work they did, and I believe it is only a waste of time to go over the names of these people. I believe these men were in distress, but Mr. King sent up a report to the Poor Law Board that I entered into a combination with the relieving officer.

6439. Mr. C. King.—I object to the names of every one I have on this list; and I object to pay rates for them, and I will go on with my examination. (To the witness).—Did you give relief to William Lyden?—I believe I did.

6440. Did he work on the road?—His son did.

6441. I am talking of William Lyden, the smith?—His son worked, I believe. I gave him relief.

6442. For work on the roads?—No, it was not for work on the roads. He is not able to work. He is about ninety years of age, and he is a very destitute man.

6443. Do you persist in swearing he was not able to work on the roads?—He was not working on the roads.

6444. You are after swearing he was not able to work?—I consider he was not fit to work.

6445. Is it not a fact that the man that you were swearing before this Board was not able to work was working at that very time for Mr. Williamson?—I don't believe it. I was not aware of it.

6446. Are you aware that he is working there at present?—He may be presently.

6447. And you did not pass that way?—Very seldom.

6448. Are not you aware that he was working there before the relief works were commenced at all?—He might be.

6449. Will you tell us the relationship that exists between you and him?—I don't know, on my oath.

6450. Is not it a fact, that he is a second cousin of yours?—I did not think it

6451. You don't know that man, and you could not tell whether he was working?—I believe he was not working at that time, because he came to me.

6452. Mr. Redington.—You say he was not able to work on the roads?—Yes; because he was eighty or ninety years of age. There is not a poorer man in the whole place than this man.

6453. Were you aware that he was working for anybody else?—I was not aware; I did not think he was, because he came to me.

6454. How is he supporting himself now?—He can do a little jobbing for Mr. Williamson.

6455. Does he work in his forge?—No; he works with Mr. Williamson—a little jobbing.

6456. Mr. C. King.—Smith's work?—Yes.

6457. Do you know a man named Martin Toole?—No; I don't. I may know him.

6458. You know the late returned Yankee, who married Stephen Joyce's daughter recently, and got a fortune with her?—I cannot know every one.

6459. Mr. Redington.—Do you know this man?—I think I do know him now.

6460. What are his circumstances?—Was he a fit recipient for relief when you gave him relief?—I don't know rightly. He may be or he may not.

6461. Were you not aware that he got a big fortune from Stephen Joyce?—I think there was a road running through his land, and he wanted to work on this road.

6462. Was it a new road?—Yes; it was a new road through the townland.

6463. Was it a new road through his land?—Yes, that is as near as I can go to it.

6464. Mr. C. King.—Would you be surprised to hear that it was through John Lyden's land?—I would.

6465. Did you ever go there to see them working?—I did; one day.

6466. Did you see Toole there that day?—He was not working that day.

6467. Did you go on the road at all?—I did.

6468. Would you be surprised if ten men swore you did not?—Perhaps you might bring them up.

6469. Mr. Redington.—You swear you did go?—Yes.

6470. Mr. C. King.—Do you know William Halloran?—There may be such a man.

6471. Did you give him relief?—Perhaps I did; if his name is on the book. Is that the man who lives at the far end of the island?

6472. I don't know. This was the man who was in the market and got married to Peaty Gowan's daughter?—His wife was sick at the time, and he was a very poor man at the time.

6473. Was it the Halloran who got married about the same time, and who got a big fortune?—Timothy Halloran.

Carew.
—
Mr. Andrew
Lyden.

Michael Cassman, Relieving Officer, sworn and examined.

6474. Mr. Redington.—What electoral divisions have you got?—Bennet, Derryconale, Ilhen, Moyra, Rosadunne, Knockboy, Ovenspale, and Stannive.

6475. How many assistants have you?—Only two.

6476. What were their duties?—Their duties were to be the best they could for me. One was appointed on the 15th.

6477. Did they explain to them what their duties were?—I did.

6478. What were the duties you assigned to each of them?—I gave Rosadunne and Bennet to one, and Knockboy and the other divisions to the other.

6479. What duties did they do?—They looked after the men and assisted me in issuing orders.

6480. Did they take the names of applicants for relief?—Yes. I was with them all through.

6481. When the works were first started did you put persons on the works?—Not in Father Flannery's

parish. He started them himself, as I could not attend to it.

6482. In the other electoral divisions who started them to work?—Myself and the two clergymen.

6483. You reserved the names of the applicants and put them on the works?—Yes. We started the men to work, and afterwards we appointed gangers, and they brought me a list of the men.

6484. For Father Flannery's parish when did you write up the application and report books?—Immediately. About the 15th of May.

6485. Did you keep them written up to date?—Yes. About the 15th of May I first entered the names.

6486. Did you make any inquiry about the persons put on in Father Flannery's parish?—His Reverence knew them all.

6487. In the other districts what inquiry did you

Mr. Michael
Cassman.

GARDNER.
Mr. Michael
Gardner.

make it—I know the greater part of them myself. And Father Molony and the assistants knew them, and I was satisfied with his report.

6483. Were you satisfied with Father Molony's report on the Roundstone division?—Yes.

6486. Did you make any inquiry as to the circumstances of the people put on by Father Molony or by your assistants, or by Father Flannery?—Yes. I made inquiries and they told me they were all destitute.

6487. Where did you make the inquiries from?—From the clergy.

6488. Did you strike off any of the men here put on by the clergy?—No, unless those struck off by the board here, in their own person.

6489. You never struck off any?—No.

6490. You considered every one put on destitute?—The greater part of them were.

6491. Do you think that they were all?—Yes. They required it at the time.

6492. Would you have put on the same persons if you had been doing it yourself?—I live over 30 miles from one part of the divisions.

6493. Did you write up the books when you were issuing the tickets in the same way as that described by Mr. Lyden?—No. I took them on the memorandum book which I had in my pocket, the names of the parishes, as we could not take the application book. I should go to Roundstone and remain there till 12 o'clock at night, and then would remain there for two days. Then go off to another distant part in Father Flannery's parish, and go back the next day and issue orders for the other places. And then when I had all the orders issued, I hid my memorandum on the table for my assistants.

6494. Did you write out all the names?—The greater part of my assistants and with the books. I certified them myself.

6495. Did any of the clergy write out any of the tickets?—No.

6496. You wrote out the tickets for them?—Yes. For all the men that they put on.

6497. You prepared a list of the persons here put on the works?—In their payment I did.

6498. Was this list given to you by the gangers?—Yes, and I paid these parties.

6499. And as soon as you were able to write up the application and report book?—Yes.

6500. In furnishing the returns of the persons relieved, how did you give the clerk that return?—I gave him his list here.

6501. Do you think these lists were correct?—Of course I do.

6502. They might have been out a little?—I don't know.

6503. How soon were you able to write up the application reports?—About the 15th.

6504. In submitting the application and report book to the Guardians was the relief entered in the provisional column?—Yes.

6504A. In any case did the Guardians instruct you as to the persons to be put on the works, or did they sanction the provisional relief?—They sanctioned every man I put on.

6505. Did they strike off any?—On the 15th of June they reduced the amount.

6506. Did they make any order as to the amount of relief to be afforded during the following week?—No, except on the 15th of June and the relief was reduced and some parties were struck off.

6507. What information did you submit to the Guardians that induced them to do that?—Any information I got about anyone who did not require relief.

6508. There was a general revision on the 15th of June?—Yes.

6509. Was it in consequence of any representation that you made that they reduced the number?—It was reduced all over the union.

6510. Why was the number reduced? You submitted a list and they told you to reduce it?—The guardian who initiated the book told me to reduce it.

6511. What reason was given for reducing it?—Well, I do not know, I think there was an order from the Local Government Board to reduce it, at the same time they were giving 3s. at the commencement, was too much. I think there was an order from the Local Government Board.

6512. Did you advise the Guardians to reduce it?—Of course I did not.

6513. Do you think they acted judiciously in reducing it?—Yes, according to they considered it proper.

6514. Do you think that in making that sudden reduction they incurred any risk?—I don't know.

6515. Surely you know enough of the circumstances of the people to know whether the board incurred any risk by that sudden reduction in the relief; for instance, in Knockboy there were 1,694 persons on relief one week and there were none at all the next week. Do you think that there was no risk there by wiping off 1,694 people all in one week, or do you know why they did it?—The relief was stopped.

6516. Why was it stopped?—I forgot now.

6517. As a matter of fact, did you advise them to stop it?—No.

6518. Then it was not in consequence of any representation from you that they got these people cut off?—No, it was some mismanagement of their own.

6519. Had you any application for relief during that time?—Yes, a few.

6520. What way were they entered?—As ordinary cases.

6521. Could you give the exact number you gave provisional relief to during that week?—I could not tell.

6522. There were no inquiries into ordinary cases?—No.

6523. Then you could not have given many additional cases?—No.

6524. Do you think there was any hardship in the people being cut off at that time?—No, I think there was not in that week as far as I know.

6525. You think there was no distress on the 15th of June?—If there was I did not know of it.

6526. Did the people make application to you for money to feed them, and ask you to give provisional relief on your own order?—They did.

6527. Did you give them orders?—Yes.

6528. How did you enter these in the application and report books?—The same as I entered the rest.

6529. It is not shown in your books in any way?—There were parties from Oronogowla and Skinnish.

6530. Did you know whether there were any private charities in circulation in the district, or whether the clergy had any money for distribution?—I never heard a word about it.

6531. When the guardians "wiped off" that number of people did you inform them that they were running any risk?—I did not interfere with them at all.

6532. Did you think there was a risk?—I knew there was.

6533. Who were the contractors in your district?—John Joyce & Co., in Killymore; Robert Hynde, of Carris; Edward Conolly, in Roundstone; and John Joyce.

6534. Did these people only honour the tickets of the persons within their own division?—They were contractors for several divisions.

6535. On your tickets was the nature of the food to be given stated?—No, sir; it was not. Only to give them so much meat.

6536. Were you aware what was the usual relief obtained?—They usually took meat and flour; those who required it.

6537. Do you know of any cases where they received anything else besides meat and flour?—I do not know.

6538. When did you issue the tickets—was it every Saturday?—No, sir. In Roundstone I commenced on Friday, and I remained there until three o'clock on Friday and drove home to my place, and then I would

go to them, and from that to Kilkree, and remain there until Tuesday.

6539. Did your assistants help you to write out these districts?—Yes.

6540. In any of the cases did you visit the home of any of the applicants?—I never visited one of them, nor I could not.

6541. How did you determine the chargeability of each of the persons?—According to the report I received from these parties.

6542. Supposing a man from Owenduff wanted to save his own division the expense, and said he belonged to some other division, what means had you of detecting that?—If there were such a report I would ask the clergyman in the district.

6543. Do you think there were any mistakes of that kind?—No; I never heard anything of it.

6544. Do you think that every division is only charged for its own poor?—Yes.

6545. When do you think the distress was at its worst?—It was just as bad up to the latter end of May, and the 15th of June.

6546. Did it disappear then?—The weather was getting better then, and the people along the sea coast had many ways of living.

6547. Was there distress in July?—Yes.

6548. In the early part of July?—Yes.

6549. What time did the potatoes come in?—16th July.

6550. And you stopped all works then?—Yes.

6551. Is it a good crop?—A pretty fair crop.

6552. How often do you attend the board?—Once a week regular.

6553. The works in your district—were they generally good?—Yes.

6554. What was the nature of them?—Road-making.

6555. In every case?—Yes.

6556. Where were they best carried out?—Father Flannery's parish was the best they were worked in.

6557. When did you fill up the relieving lists?—I don't know; I could not tell the date.

6558. Is it written up to date yet?—Yes.

6559. Is the statistical portion finished?—No, I don't think it is.

6560. When did you bring your books before the guardians to be ruled?—On the 15th of May.

6561. Did they rule them then?—Yes, it was the next board day.

6562. Did you bring them up every week?—Yes, every Wednesday.

6563. And were they ruled every Wednesday?—No; perhaps they would not be able to rule one-fourth of them.

6564. When used they to rule them?—They appointed a day specially to come in for the purpose.

6565. Would the book for one week be ruled before the next meeting came on?—It would; they would appoint a day for initialling the book, and the guardians would come in when they knew they were initialling the book.

6566. Was that before the next board meeting?—Yes.

6567. I see some of the books were not initialled at all. Take the case of Stephen Feeney. He got relief on the 17th of May and on the 24th?—It might be a mistake. I had so many books, perhaps I thought I had the whole of them initialled.

6568. As a matter of fact there is a great number of them not initialled, and you continued to give outdoor relief in these cases. Did you bring these cases before the guardians at all?—No, sir, they were not initialled.

6569. Were they brought before the guardians at all?—Yes.

6570. And the guardians took no action upon them at all?—No; they could not initial them at the time.

6571. Had not they a special day for initialling them?—Yes.

6572. Will you swear that you brought those before the guardians?—Yes.

6573. And they did not initial them?—No; they had not time.

6574. And they made no order for relief?—No.

6575. What is the meaning of those entries?—Those were mistakes my assistants made in making double entries.

6576. And these are not charged?—No.

6577. Do you see that entry?—Pat Neill, of Kilkreeen?—Yes.

6578. Whose initials are those?—Mr. Cook's.

6579. He is a guardian?—Yes.

6580. That is an order for 4s. 6d.?—Yes.

6581. On the 1st of June?—Yes.

6582. How did you come to give him 16s.?—On the 8th of May, here is the order for it.

6583. On the 5th of May you gave him 8s.?—That was due to him, and afterwards it was given to him.

6584. These were brought before the Guardians every week?—Yes.

6585. Take the case of Catherine Leary, of Roundstone. She got 3s. on the 18th of June, and it was not initialled until the 15th of September?—Yes; the Guardians objected to the initialling of the Roundstone book until the guardians of the division came in.

6586. And did you go on giving relief for several weeks without getting any initialling?—I carried in the book once a week.

6587. And they examined the book and discussed these cases?—I think the Guardians initialled the book.

6588. But they were not initialled until the month of September?—But they were in the commencement.

6589. But for the months of June and July you waited till the middle of September to get them examined?—No, I brought the books forward here, and the guardians would not initial the books for me as the representative of the Roundstone division would not come.

6590. Had not you special days for examining them?—They had in the commencement, but not in the winding up.

6591. I see that all the cases in the Roundstone division were not initialled till the middle of September?—Yes, and that is the cause of it.

6592. Will you swear the cases were examined every week?—They objected to the books being initialled until the Roundstone Guardians were in.

6593. Were the cases examined by the Guardians at all?—No; they did not interfere with the books at all.

6594. Then no one interfered with the book at all?—No one interfered with the book at all.

6595. Mr. C. King.—Do you know John Joyce?—Yes, well.

6596. Did you give him any relief?—There are several of them.

6597. It is John Joyce of Cloonassara. He is the post-master?—I solemnly swear he got none of it.

6598. Do you know Myles Joyce?—I do well.

6599. Was he a case to get relief?—It was not re-appointed him at all, but Father Maloney.

6600. Did you give him a ticket?—Yes, of course, I gave him a ticket.

6601. Don't you know he was a publican?—Yes.

6602. And he has a horse and car going down to Galway weekly for stock?—Yes.

6603. And he has a good farm?—Yes.

6604. And you gave him relief?—It was Father Maloney who gave him relief.

6605. Mr. Rostington.—Did you think he was a fit recipient for relief?—No. I knew he was not, but I was compelled by the clergy.

6606. By Mr. C. King.—Do you know Feat Joyce?—Yes.

6607. Was there a son of his working on the road as a ganger?—His son was appointed ganger by Father Maloney.

6608. Do you consider him a fit man to get relief?

CAUTION.
—
Mr. Michael
Cannon.

—We considered him a fit man to take the men's things.

6600. Was he fit for relief?—No. Only we had him as ganger. We had no other man.

6601. You know Daniel Gormin, your brother-in-law?—Yes.

6602. You gave him relief?—Yes, of course. I think Mr. O'Loughlin appointed him a ganger.

6603. Was he in the Constabulary?—Yes.

6604. What is his pension?—I do not know.

6605. Do you know if he has any pension?—Yes.

6606. Do you know Tom Cannon?—Yes.

6607. Is not he a brother of yours?—Yes.

6608. And did not he get relief?—He was appointed a ganger.

6609. Is he a case for outdoor relief?—No. He was a ganger, and there was no man in the place who knew more about superintending work than he did. He was only a few weeks at it.

6610. Is there nobody in that locality that can read and write but Tom Cannon?—Not in this townland. And this road was right through his place, and he knew more about superintending the work.

6611. Do you know John Cannon?—I do well.

6612. Did you give him relief?—Yes.

6613. He is a brother of yours?—Yes. He is a ganger also.

6614. Where was he working?—In Letterkhanon, where there was a road being made.

6615. And there was no other person there who could read and write?—No.

6616. Do you know Bartley King? Was he a case for outdoor relief?—Yes. He was appointed by Father Biggan.

6617. Was he a poor man who wanted relief?—No. He was appointed a ganger.

6618. Do you know Owen Done?—I do well.

6619. What sort is he paying?—I do not know.

6620. Did you give him relief?—Of course I did. He was a ganger on the road.

6621. Was he a fit case?—He was a ganger.

6622. Do you know his name?—No.

6623. Do you know that the relieving officer reported that man as paying £80 a year rent?—He does not pay that at all. He has no land.

6624. Mr. Redington.—Is he a tenant?—No, there is another tenant on that place.

6625. Mr. C. King.—Is it not a fact that he has the whole townland of Maymont?—I am swearing he has not.

6626. Is not the whole townland there Captain Thompson's? Are you swearing he has not?—I am not swearing it at all.

6627. Can you swear that he has not one-half of it?—I swear his brother is tenant of it.

6628. Did you see the receipt?—No.

6629. Mr. Redington.—Is the land in his own name?—I could not say.

6630. Mr. C. King.—Do you know James Green?—I do well.

6631. Did you give him relief?—I did.

6632. Do you consider him a case for relief?—I do.

6633. Is not he a publican?—I don't know whether he is or not.

6634. Mr. Redington.—Has he got a shop?—He has. It is in his name.

6635. Has he got a licensed shop?—Yes. But he has not control of it.

6636. Mr. C. King.—Is not it a fact that he has a public house in his name?—Many a man has a holding in his name that has no call to it.

6637. Do you know William Milson?—Yes.

6638. Did you give him relief?—It was Mr. Macdonagh's brother.

6639. Did you give it to him?—Yes.

6640. Did you give it to Pat King, a namesake of mine?—I think there are several Pat Kings. It was Mr. Macdonagh's brother who was appointed assistant, and it was his business.

6641. Mr. Redington.—Do you know anything about Mitten?—No, not about his circumstances; but as he was recommended by Mr. Macdonagh's brother, I gave him relief.

6642. You filled in the ticket?—Yes, according as it was pointed out by Mr. Macdonagh.

6643. Mr. C. King.—There are a lot of other names; but I think what I have given already is quite enough. I will hand in a list of the names of the persons whose relief I object to. [List handed in.]

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Mr. Stephen
Joyce.

Stephen Joyce, Relieving Officer, sworn.

6698. Mr. Redington.—You are one of the relieving officers?—Yes.

6699. What is your district?—Ballinakil, Cleggan, Cuckillerry, and Rensville.

6700. When did the works begin in your division?—In May.

6701. How were they started?—By the guardians.

6702. Who put the men on the work?—The priest and the guardian for the district.

6703. And when you went on the road did you find them at work?—Yes.

6704. Did you examine then into the circumstances of the people at work?—Yes.

6705. Did you visit their houses?—Very few. I did not go to many houses.

6706. What examination did you make?—Well, I got all the information needed from the gingers who knew the people.

6707. Why didn't you go to their houses?—I had not time.

6708. Did you bring the names of the people on the works before the guardians at their next meeting?—Yes, but it was impossible to have them all prepared.

6709. Had you not your application and report book made up after the first week the works were opened?—No.

6710. When was it first made up?—I proceeded as fast as I could.

6711. What was the first day you brought your book before the guardians?—The 15th of May.

6712. I may take that as the first day?—Yes.

6698A. As a rule did the guardians make any ruling on the books brought before them?—In some cases they did.

6699. On the 15th of May they made no ruling?—No.

6700. You gave relief again on the 22nd?—Yes.

6701. You gave it as provisional relief?—Yes.

6702. Was that in cases of necessity?—Yes, I thought they were fit cases. I told the guardians the moment they were getting each week, and there being no fatal on the book I took it they intended that it should continue.

6703. You brought the cases before the guardians, and they made no ruling?—Yes.

6704. Shouldn't you have ascertained from them whether the names were to be struck out?—No, I would not recommend any of the names to be struck out.

6705. The guardians examined the cases and did not recommend that any of them be struck out?—No.

6706. About the 15th of June there was a cessation of the works?—Yes, for the week ending the 15th.

6707. Did you recommend that?—No, there was some confusion about the accounts, and it was thought best to stop for a week, and in the meantime let the relieving officer attend to the bad cases.

6708. Were you present when they were discussing the cases?—Yes.

6709. Was it left to you who were to be relieved?—Yes, it was left to the relieving officer in bad cases.

CLERK—
Mr. Stephen
Jeyes.

6679. There was a great reduction in the amount given?—Yes.

6680. Of course no one died of starvation—Did you know of anyone to suffer privation?—They got tickets partly in advance the following week; they got them before the week ended in order to help them on.

6681. Is Ballinskil one of your divisions?—Yes.

6682. Don't you think that if you were able to reduce the number so considerably in the week ending the 19th of June, you might have contained that lower number from that out?—No, I could not.

6683. How do you account for the fact that about half the people in your division were able to live in a week without relief?—I know I gave them relief the following week before the week ended; I gave it in advance.

6684. But you had not so many people?—I mean the week ending the 19th, and I gave them relief before the end of the week.

6685. Did you give it to the same number of people?—I think I did.

6686. There is not so great a discrepancy in your case as in the others. Ballinskil, 410 fell to 250 on the 19th, and to 239 on the 19th?—About that time they got work elsewhere.

6687. In Claggan there was a very slight reduction?—It was had there.

6688. In Cuskiliffy you reduced the numbers from 434 to 100 the next week?—But the following week they got the relief on Monday.

6689. But only 100 got it then—was there an improvement in the times?—They were a little better than when the weeks were started.

6690. Did you sign all the tickets in your division?—I did.

6691. Had you assistants?—I had assistants but I had some appointed by the Board.

6692. Then you are responsible of all the cases in your division?—Yes.

6693. To whom were the orders given?—They were given to the several contractors of their district.

6694. Were those contractors the people whose tenders were accepted by the Board?—Yes.

6695. Were the depots in convenient localities?—Yes.

6696. Did you keep your application and report books written up after the first fortnight?—After the first month we got it written up pretty well. We tried it as fast as we could every week.

6697. Is your outdoor relief book written up now?—Yes.

6698. As to the way people were first put on the works—do I understand you that the guardian of the division and the priest put them on?—Yes, in some cases.

6699. Was it the board of guardians or the guardian outside?—The guardian outside.

6700. How did you know that?—I knew the priest in one division and the guardian to go round and put the people on, and I knew in another division the guardian went round himself.

6701. But you are aware you made yourself responsible for these people as fit recipients of relief although you did not select them yourself?—Yes, but if we found people at work who had work elsewhere we struck them off.

6702. Mr. Robinson.—Did you ever, on your own responsibility, strike off any of the persons put on the works by the priest and guardian?—Yes, any I found had employment elsewhere.

6703. Without consulting the guardian or the priest?—Yes.

6704. Was that often?—There were a good many.

6705. Improperly put on by the guardian and priest?—When they were put on first there was not so many employed, but after the works started there was more people employed than should be.

6706. You struck off a good many from Mr. Mitchell

Henry's place?—Yes, any that I found should not be on.

6707. Did you ever strike off any person put on by the priest or guardian?—Yes, I believe I did, if I found people employed that were not fit.

6708. Were there many such cases?—I think about twenty.

6709. Did they get paid?—They did for the first.

6710. For what they did?—Yes.

6711. If you had been putting the people on the works, would you have put on these people in the first instance?—I could not say whether there was any member of these families employed at the time of the roads starting.

6712. Mr. Redington.—You struck off twenty?—Yes.

6713. You paid them for the work done?—Yes.

6714. Although you did not consider them fit?—There was such confusion the first month.

6715. How could that be when you had your books ruled on the 19th May?—It was not the whole of it, only part of it. This book was three weeks behind on the 1st June.

6716. So that some of the books were not ruled on the 1st June?—No, and if I mistake not, some later on.

6717. Did you apply for assistance?—It was understood I had assistants. I had a man who was very good.

6718. Aren't you aware that that was taking the control of the relief out of the guardians' hands altogether—to keep the books for the first month without putting them before the guardians?—But I had them here every day, and even what I had done was not initialled.

6719. For how long?—I know I was here every Wednesday.

6720. You were here with such books as were made up?—Yes, and even some of these were not initialled.

6721. But as regards these books that were not made up during those four weeks, the guardians could have had no control over the relief?—It was impossible to have them made up in time.

6722. Mr. Robinson.—Who was the guardian who put the people on in that division?—Mr. Grady was the guardian for one division, and two Mr. McDonnell for the other.

6723. Did you make any inquiry as to these people?—Yes.

6724. Did you go to the persons' houses?—I did not go to half of their houses.

6725. If Mr. McDonnell told you he thought the cases despatched, would you relieve them?—Yes, because I believe he would not tell me, only it was so.

6726. You would not consider it necessary to make further inquiry?—Yes, I would.

6727. And did you make further inquiry?—I did, in every case, as far as I could.

6728. When you gave provisional relief and it was ruled by the guardians, and you gave fresh provisional relief, did you make further inquiry?—Yes, I inquired from the people.

6729. Did you go to the houses?—I did not visit all the houses.

6730. Did your assistant visit the houses?—No, I had no assistant who could go to do that.

6731. Did the guardians consult you as to the persons who should go upon the works?—They put them on first, and then I took the names.

6732. You only struck off about twenty families in that way?—Yes.

6733. Mr. King.—Do you know Tom King?—I do.

6734. Did you give him relief?—I did.

6735. Do you think he was a fit case for outdoor relief?—I think so.

6736. Mr. Robinson.—Do you know when he was put on by?—By the guardian.

6737. For what division?—For Claggan.

CLERK.
Mr Stephen
Jayes

6757. Who was that?—Mr. Henry McDonnell.
6758. Did you give him relief?—I did.
6759. Do you believe he was a case that should get relief?—Well, really I think there was worse cases.
6760. Mr. King.—Do you know his son Fasty?—Yes.
6761. Is he married?—Yes.
6762. Did you give him relief?—I did.
6763. Do you think he was a case of outdoor relief?—I think he was.
6764. Aren't you aware he has a lot of cattle and sheep?—I am not aware how much cattle he has but I know he has some.
6765. Don't you know himself as well as you do me?—Yes.
6766. Still you don't know what means he has?—No, because he lives right or nine miles from me.
6767. He used to go back and forward every week?—Yes.
6768. Before the relief works started at all?—Yes.
6769. Don't you know him well?—I do.
6770. Were't you often inside the same place together?—(No answer.)
6771. Mr. Robinson.—Do you know how many sheep he has?—I don't know.
6772. Mr. King.—Has he a milch cow?—He has.
6773. Has he any young stock?—I cannot say.
6774. Has he five head of cattle altogether?—I cannot tell.
6775. Mr. Robinson.—Did you make any inquiry about that man?—He got some tickets before I inquired about it, and I believe he was not a proper person to get relief. I went to the shopkeepers to ask about him.
6776. Who put the man on?—The guardians did.
6777. Mr. King.—And you left him on?—I did.
6778. Mr. Robinson.—Did you ever go to his land to inquire what his circumstances were?—I did.
6779. What was the impression left on your mind?—I understood he had a few head of cattle.
6780. Do you think he was a fit recipient of relief?—Yes, from what the shopkeeper told me; that he would not give him a bag of meal.
6781. Mr. King.—How did he rear a race horse?—I don't know.
6782. Aren't you aware that his father and himself were two of the strongest men in the locality?—I gave the father relief for they are separate families.
6783. Do they live separately now?—They are all as one house now, but they are separate families.
6784. Don't you know that that man attends fairs and buys cattle?—I know nothing about it.
6785. Don't you know it was your business to know it?—Do you know John Acton?—Yes.
6786. Did you give him relief?—No.
6787. Did you give it to himself?—Yes, he got some relief.
6788. Was he on relief on the 3rd of June last?—I can't say.
6789. Were you at the fair of Letterfrack on the 3rd June?—Yes.
6790. How many head of cattle did you see him selling that day?—I did not see him selling any.
6791. Did you hear he sold any?—Yes.
6792. How many?—I heard he sold five or six head of cattle.
6793. Would you be surprised if it was twelve or thirteen bullocks?—Lacked I would, for I don't believe he did.
6794. Who bought them did you hear?—I did not hear.
6795. That is as true as everything else you have sworn to?—(No answer.)
6796. Mr. Robinson.—He got relief until the 3rd July?—Yes, the 29th June was the last week.
6797. Mr. King.—Isn't a fact that on the following board day after the fair of Letterfrack, I made a report here to the board on your presence that the man sold twelve or thirteen head of cattle and got £50 or £70 for them?—I never heard a thing about it.

6780. That is as true as all the rest you have sworn to—it is true.
6781. Mr. Robinson.—You know he sold five or six head of cattle?—I was told it.
6782. Did you see him off relief then?—I did.
6783. How did he get ten shillings the first week?—He was appointed ganger by the guardians.
6784. Mr. King.—The fair was on a Thursday, and on the Wednesday following were you before the Board and charged with it?—I cannot say how long it was afterwards.
6785. Mr. Robinson.—When did you first hear he sold cattle?—I heard Mr. King say it.
6786. Were you at the fair yourself?—Yes.
6787. Did you hear who were selling and buying?—Yes, but perhaps he would not be buying or selling.
6788. If you were anxious to know the circumstances of the country you should hear that?—When I did hear about the cattle I went to this man who said they did not belong to him at all, but to his son.
6789. Mr. King.—Is not the son a young boy?—He is.
6790. Living in the house with his father?—Yes.
6791. Mr. Robinson.—What age is he?—About twenty or twenty-two.
6792. Mr. King.—You won't swear it was the Board day after the fair that I mentioned about this sale?—No.
6793. Did you give relief to Anthony McEvilly or his son?—The father got some.
6794. Don't you know him to be a publican, and having a house and cart and a lot of stock?—(No answer.)
6795. Do you deny that?—I don't deny anything.
6796. Mr. Robinson.—Has he a horse and cart?—Yes.
6797. Has he a licensed house?—Yes.
6798. Has he much stock?—I believe he has some.
6799. Mr. King.—Doesn't he keep a post horse and cart?—He has a horse and cart, but I don't think he does any posting.
6800. Where does he live?—In Knockbrook, in the Clongra division.
6801. Mr. Robinson.—He has a licensed house there; do you consider him a fit recipient for relief?—(No answer.)
6802. Don't you know there is a great deal of work going on there?—Yes, there is.
6803. Mr. King.—Do you know that that man is doing a good business?—I don't think he is doing much. I did not employ the man, but he was employed.
6804. Mr. Robinson.—But you kept him on for three weeks?—He was employed, and I objected, and at last he was leaving about it, and the guardians of the division asked me to do it.
6805. Who was the guardian?—Mr. Henry McDonnell.
6806. Was there an order of the Board giving him £s. 1?—I believe it was given and initialled afterwards.
6807. Was it given provisionally?—Yes.
6808. And initialled afterwards?—Yes.
6809. You have no explanation to give about it?—No; that is all.
6810. Mr. King.—Do you know Gregory Higgins?—Yes; I gave him relief.
6811. Do you know he is a case that did not require relief?—I don't know.
6812. Was he a fit recipient?—I think he is. As far as I could learn from the appearance of his place he is as poor a man as any other man.
6813. Mr. Robinson.—Was he destitute?—I think there were worse cases.
6814. Mr. Robinson.—How much land has he got?—I cannot say.
6815. Did you make any inquiry about some of these cases?—I did. The amount of rent was always put down in the book.
6816. How much stock has he got?—I cannot say.
6817. Has he a horse?—He has a horse, and I am sure he has a cow, too.

Martin Morgan, F.L.C., sworn.

6816. Mr. Robinson.—You are the guardian for Owenagwela?—Yes.

6817. How long are you guardian?—Three or four years or five.

6818. Was there much distress there at the time the relief was given?—Yes.

6819. Did you hear the account by Mr. Casavan of the way the relief was given?—Yes.

6820. He said persons were put on relief by you and the parish priest?—Yes. I challenge any one case in my division.

6821. Did you put on the cases without consulting him?—I asked him to put them on. The priest said I recommended them to go to work.

6822. And then you asked him to put them on the list?—I asked him to take a list of the people.

6823. What inquiries did you make as to the circumstances of the people?—I had full knowledge of them myself. There is no one in the union could know more about them. I am barony case collector, and I know a good deal about them.

6824. You thought you knew sufficient about them without further inquiry?—I am quite satisfied there was not a shilling given wrongly in that division.

6825. You think there was no wrong relief?—I am quite certain of it. Let any man be challenged.

6826. When was the distress at its worst?—I think when we started about May.

6827. Was there any distress in June?—Yes, but the fishing turned up a little better, and it was not so awfully bad.

6828. Under what circumstances did you recommend the relieving officer to reduce the list?—There was a general order of the board here. The Guardians came to the conclusion that the union would never be able to support them, and they resolved to reduce the number. Then we picked the worst cases.

6829. You only kept two cases on that week?—I am not sure we kept more.

6830. On the whole division?—Yes.

6831. Were there bad effects consequent on your wiping them off?—I did not hear of any deaths. There was little work turned up, and they got many chances they had not before.

6832. In July you cut them off again from 636 to 4?—Yes.

6833. On what grounds did you reduce the number again?—I don't think it was ever reduced to 4.

6834. It was reduced to seven persons on the 12th June?—I don't think that is right.

6835. These are the returns from the relieving officer, and there again you reduced the number from 636 to 4 persons?—I don't remember that. I attended every day.

6836. What was your idea as to what they were reduced to?—We thought we were reducing them by one-third, and by one-half in some cases over the union.

6837. With your knowledge of the union, don't you think it was a very great risk?—I was not a

party to doing that. The division is not a very large one.

6838. Then you raised the number from 4 to 401?—They may be.

6839. But you cannot give any reason for it?—No. There was a few days I was not here, but I was no party to reducing it down to that, although I am a guardian of it. Mr. O'Loughlin lives near close to it than I do.

6840. On the 3rd July there were only 4 people in receipt of relief?—There was one fortnight we gave no relief at all; the whole thing was stopped until we got another order from the Local Government Board.

6841. What became of the people during that time?—They were obliged to suffer on.

6842. How were they supported?—you had 636 in receipt of relief on the 24th June, and you say they were all fit recipients—what became of the 632, as you had only 4 on relief the next week?—they did not starve?—They were next door to it. I lent a whole lot of them meal myself.

6843. On the 10th July there were 691 people on relief—they were reduced to 6, and then, on the 15th July, there were only 3 persons?—These were stopped by the board altogether.

6844. But I want to know how there were 600 people having a right to get relief one week and only 6 the next week?—It was not my opinion.

6845. Did you protest against it?—I did not want to insist on the relieving officer doing what was not done in other divisions.

6846. In the week ending the 26th June there were ninety-five persons in the union on ordinary out-door relief, and on the 3rd July there were only eighty-three; on the 10th July, seventy-seven; and on the 17th July only seventeen, so that those in receipt of out-door relief decreased, while you were striking off 636 who were in receipt of extraordinary relief—didn't that show that you were giving it to people who did not want it?—I don't think we did.

6847. What is the explanation?—We came to the conclusion to reduce the number by one-half or one-third.

6848. How did you know they could be struck off without risk?—We thought it best to do it.

6849. There was a resolution "That in consideration of the letters we have this day received from the Local Government Board that the works be carried on until Saturday next, 9th June, and then be stopped for one week, and that any one who is destitute be relieved by the relieving officers in the usual way"?—Yes, I stood here, and voted as well as I could.

6850. Mr. King.—How did they live during that fortnight?—I can't say.

6851. Don't you know John Kelly?—Yes, well.

6852. Was he a man who should get relief?—I don't think he is; he is not the worst case at all. He does not belong to my division at all.

Michael Casavan, Relieving Officer, recalled.

6853. Mr. King.—Did you give him relief?—No, he never got relief.

Martin Morgan recalled.

6854. Mr. King.—You know John Green?—Yes, he is a deserving case this minute.

6854a. Isn't he father-in-law to John Green, who reported that he is not a fit case?—That shows that he has a kind family to deal with—I think he is an object for relief at this moment.

6855. Do you consider Owen O'Donnell a fit recipient of relief?—I don't think he is much better. He was a bankrupt.

6856. Are you sure?—I believe he was, and at present I believe he has served notice to that effect.

6857. How many head of cattle had he at the time?—I don't know how he was at this moment.

6858. Had he any at that time?—If I had a decree against him that moment, I don't think I would be safe to take it for a shilling.

6859. Don't you know he has a horse and our com-

Mr. Michael Casavan.

Martin Morgan.

CATHER-
—
Mr. Martin
Moogan

veying the police round the country?—There is a horse and car between himself and his brother.

6860. Don't you know they have the township of Moyrus between them?—I think they are acting for Captain Thompson.

6861. You are hawkey nose collector?—Yes.

6862. From where do you receive the coin?—I receive it from hands.

6863. Which of the two brothers pays you?—Owen paid me the last time.

6864. Mr. Redington.—How much coin did he pay you?—About £6.

6865. He paid 26 coin?—Yes.

6866. When was that?—Last summer.

6867. Was he getting relief at the time?—He had about forty head of cattle there, and when I went to seize the cattle grazing there he paid me the money, and I gave him the receipt.

6868. He has the land in his name?—I think the name is Pat on the books.

6869. And Owen paid you the money?—Yes.

6870. Mr. King.—Isn't it a fact he got a large legacy about twelve months ago?—I don't know.

6871. Isn't he living next door to you?—Yes.

6872. Mr. Redington.—I don't think you need mind Owen's case further after the £6 coin.

Mr. Joseph Cooke, P.L.O., sworn.

Mr. Joseph
Cooke

6873. Mr. Robinson.—You are the guardian of Skarnive?—Yes.

6880. Did you direct many persons to go on the relief works?—I did.

6881. Did you consult the relieving officer as to the persons to put on?—He knew all the people.

6882. You knew them too?—Yes, and he knew them.

6883. Did you make any inquiry?—I was born and bred there, and I knew all their circumstances.

6884. Do you know enough of their circumstances?—I partly believed they were destitute.

6885. Did you consider that the Act was only intended for destitute people?—Yes, certainly.

6886. Was there much poverty at the time?—There was a great deal.

6887. Did you inform the relieving officer of the district to strike off the names of any persons he was not satisfied with?—I don't think there was a single man in the division that did not require relief that was down in his books—I don't think there was one of them that did not require relief.

6888. They were all destitute?—I believe firmly all he had in his books in the division were destitute. It is the poorest division in the country.

6889. Do you think any of them would have suffered if taken off the relief?—They might hold on for a little, and there were a few who had a few head of cattle, but what was the use of them. They could get nothing for them.

Mr. Martin Moogan, P.L.O., recalled.

Mr. Martin
Moogan,
P.L.O.

6902. Mr. Redington.—Look at that rate book (Book produced)?—Yes.

6903. You see Owen and Pat O'Donnell?—Yes.

6904. What is their valuation?—£67.

6905. How many acres do they hold?—1,975 acres.

Joseph Cooke, P.L.O., recalled.

Mr. Joseph
Cooke, P.L.O.

6906. Mr. King.—Do you consider James Green a man who should get relief?—I believe he is, and if you know the position he is in you would say the same thing now.

6909. Does his son live with him?—He does.

6910. Does he post in here to Clifden on one of the best parties in Connemara?—Yes.

Mr. M. Moogan, P.L.O.—He wears kid gloves, too. They are all great swells.

6873. Mr. King.—Very well, sir. Isn't Richard Hynds, the contractor, a stepson of yours?—Yes.

6874. Mr. Redington.—There was an inquiry into this case?—Yes.

6875. Several people were put on as gangers but the relieving officer said were not quite destitute but were intelligent men, able to direct work—do you approve of that system?—I thought it was the best plan.

6876. You put them on as gangers without minding whether they were destitute?—No; only this road was going through this farm that Mr. King speaks about, the man could not have been employed, the man would not give leave for it to be made unless he was allowed to be ganger on it.

6877. Was it the same way with the other men who are fairly well off, and who were gangers?—I can't say.

6878. Do you object as a guardian to have a man as ganger who is not actually destitute, with the view of getting more work out of the poor?—I was one of the parties who did it, and I think he gave very good value. I could not select a man in my parish who could give such good value, and I think I was not mistaken there.

6890. They were all destitute except a few?—I think most of them were entirely destitute.

6891. Do you think there was any relief fund from which they have been relieved?—I did not hear of any.

6892. They were solely dependent on the relief?—Yes.

6893. Do you think it was a risk to reduce the number greatly for a fortnight?—I don't know, but they were very badly off.

6894. They were reduced from 1,450 to none on the following week—don't you think that that was rather a risk?—It was, but I don't know how they could manage.

6895. But they did manage?—They did manage. I did not hear of any of them getting out-door relief.

6896. There was no increase in the out-door relief at that time? Did you recommend this number to be struck off at all?—I could not say.

6897. Rev. Mr. Flanagan.—Did we not come in to protest against the striking of them off?—We did.

6898. Mr. Robinson.—The parish priest objected to the people being struck off?—Yes.

6899. Did you vote for the resolution to stop the relief?—No. I think we voted against it, for I knew the people were badly off.

6900. A fortnight after they were reduced from 1,375 to 58. Was that done on your recommendation?—I don't remember now.

6901. Did you protest against that?—I know they were stopped for a fortnight.

6906. Mr. King.—Was Pat on relief, too?—I don't know.

6907. Mr. Redington.—Is that the man who was ganger?—Yes.

6911. Mr. Redington.—How Mr. Green got a licensed public house?

Mr. J. Cooke, P.L.O.—Yes, but I don't think the son is getting well with the father.

6912. Mr. Redington.—How the man who is getting relief got a licensed house?

Mr. J. Cooke, P.L.O.—Yes.

Rev. T. Flanagan, F.R., sworn.

Examine

Rev. T.
Flanagan.

6913. Mr. Redington.—In what state was your parish before those works were established?—Previous to those works, I felt it my duty as parish priest to call the attention of the Government to the great distress that prevailed universally over the whole parish.

6914. What are the three electoral divisions you refer to—Skannave, Knockboy, and Owenduff. These are the three divisions immediately under my charge. After my calling the attention of the Government to the matter, a Local Government Inspector was sent down—Mr. Bourke—to investigate the distress. He came down and investigated into the distress, and went into a number of houses in the divisions of Skannave and Knockboy, and certainly the distress there is visible and manifest, and only for Mr. Bourke, I have no hesitation in swearing as my conviction, that hundreds of families would have died in the parish.

6915. When was this?—I think three weeks or a fortnight before the works were started. Then I came in before the Board here one day, knowing Mr. Bourke was here, and I asked the guardians to allow the work in each of the divisions to be started in order that the distressed people would be taken on, and we would be in advance of the distress which I anticipated would be spreading, but the guardians coveted me, and there was obstruction manifested then and afterwards against giving anything to Cerna. There was a vote taken on the matter, and I was defeated, and the Local Government Inspector there and then authorised me to start these works and save the people from starving, and I took it upon myself on the authority of the inspector, and these cases were immediately brought before the Board next day. We intended to have a road in each division, and there was a resolution come to by the Board that roads should be started in each place as convenient to the people as possible, and the people put on the roads to work. The people were taken up then and the work generally given to them.

6916. When was the work commenced?—About the 3rd May. I don't know the exact day, but it was about that time.

6917. The board meeting was on the 27th April?—Yes.

6918. What day does the board meet?—Oh Wednesday.

6919. Was it a month afterwards?—Yes, on the Monday afterwards. I think I began the works on Thursday.

6920. That is in the next day?—Yes, at all events we started the works on Saturday. The people could get no credit. The spring came unusually severe. The people who had means, and who under ordinary circumstances would not have required assistance; those who had means, such as potatoes, oats, and barley, which they would keep for their own use, were obliged to part with them and give them to the cattle on the mountain because the spring continued severe, and they had exhausted all they had at their disposal. Scores of cattle died and were found dead on the mountain. The cattle were reduced to such a state that they would not be worth anything. A man might part with four head of cattle and not get four bags of meal for them. That is the exact state of the case.

6921. You started the works?—Yes.

6921A. Was it on the verbal or written authority of the inspector?—On the verbal authority. The party of action was suggested by the action of the Guardians in trying to bound down the locality that asked relief because they themselves did not require relief.

6922. Did you select the people who were to go on the works?—Yes.

6923. Did the relieving officer go with you?—He came immediately; in some cases he was with me and in some cases he was in advance of me; but in the generality of cases we started three roads before he was able to attend.

6924. Was the guardian of the division with you?—

Yes; the three guardians acted in conjunction with me.

6925. Then at the end of the week the tickets were issued by the relieving officer?—Yes.

6926. Were those cases brought before the board?—Yes; they were brought in by the relieving officer.

6927. Were you present?—Yes; I was present at nearly every meeting. It was known that objections would be raised here, and frivolous objections were made by some of the guardians and the books could not be ruled. Time was spent in worthless arguments and worthless obstruction.

6928. But all the cases you put on by your own authority and that the guardian accompanied you—were they discussed at the next meeting of the board?—Yes; but perhaps it would be a fortnight before they could reach there.

6929. And in the meantime, as far as you know, relief was given by the relieving officer?—Yes.

6930. Mr. Redington.—When you speak of Mr. Arthur Bourke authorising the work, did he authorise you to commence them or did he authorise the relieving officer to commence them?—He authorised me to save the people; to start the work and the people would be paid. (See Appendix E.)

6931. Mr. Redington.—The clerk said the first payment was on the 15th May, and I understand you to say that the works began shortly after the 27th April?—Yes.

6932. When were they paid?—They were paid when they actually began the work. There was an opinion then that every little shopkeeper would be able to supply meal and get paid.

6933. When were they paid?—Immediately before the work was up.

6934. Where did they give the tickets?—The shopkeepers gave them meal waiting until the people got the tickets.

6935. When did they get the tickets?—About a fortnight afterwards; but in the meantime the people were relieved, because when a man was put on the road, and worked on the road, then the shopkeeper advanced him meal, and then when the ticket was issued he handed in the ticket; he had more meal, and sometimes three times as much meal borrowed, as the ticket would entitle. Then the contractors were confined to two or three by the Local Government Board, and they could not then get meal in advance from these shopkeepers.

6936. What happened to the shopkeepers who had given meal in advance?—They have to depend on the people until the harvest time, until they dispose of their stock, for these people are very honest and very charitable. Some of them have divided a quarter stone of meal with each other, waiting until the orders came.

6937. Mr. Redington.—Do I understand that there was so much frivolous controversy that the books could not be ruled?—Yes.

6938. Was it about the cases?—No; it was obstruction such as you have often seen yourself.

6939. If the guardians had discussed only the matters before them they could have ruled the books?—Yes; and the people might have been put on two or three weeks before they were put on.

6940. Mr. Redington.—You have heard the questions that I asked about the great reductions which took place suddenly?—Yes.

6941. What happened to the people during that time?—When they got a ticket issued to say they got a week's credit. And there was an order made by the board that it was only the works that were suspended and not the relief. And in the next payment the people got all for the fortnight, and the result was just the same.

6942. But fewer people were on at the end of the fortnight than before?—They got relief from the contractor. But the order extended over the week that

Curses
—
Her Mr.
Flawery

was going on, and the people were paid for all they done before.

6943. When was the order for the stopping of the relief?

Mr. Burke, clerk.—The 2nd of June.

6944. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think any risk was run when these works were stopped suddenly in this way?—Immense risk. I think the people were reduced to actual starvation. They were for three days confined to one meal a day.

6945. Did you represent the risk to the guardians?—Of course I protested strongly, and always did, as the guardians know.

6947. Did they consider it no risk?—They said that as there is no distress in that district, therefore the people hundreds of miles away do not require it.

6948. Mr. Redington.—The order was that the works be carried on until Saturday, the 2nd of June, and that they be stopped for one week, and that anyone who was really destitute, or in actual want, be relieved by the relieving officer in the usual way. On the 5th of June the relief stopped, and they got tickets you say, which carried them on to the 10th?—Yes, and I kept them living for the week to come.

6949. They got the tickets for a week which kept them living for a fortnight?—They had to go on starvation allowance in the last degree.

6950. On the 12th of June they got nothing?—No.

6951. What kept them going from that?—The order they got on the 10th.

6952. They were not paid in advance?—It was a week only after the work that they were paid. The work was in advance of the payment.

6953. Mr. Robinson.—Was it a fact that the work was really in advance of the payment?—It was what they got on the 5th that kept them to the 10th, and they borrowed and begged from each other, and it was regular starvation.

6954. Mr. Redington.—Don't you think it rather points to the fact that they had too many people on the relief when they were able to stop it for a week without any serious loss?—No; not one man should have been taken off; it was great mismanagement.

6955. But that occurred three times—how did you manage then?—When you come to June, after the fair of Roscommon, some people had disposed of cattle, and there was an odd ton of hemp, and some fish turned up.

6956. But when you say 1,356 people were on relief in one week, and only fifty-four the next week in receipt of relief, does not that point to the fact that there were too many people on relief?—There was a sudden cessation of the work, but not any meal advanced. When the ticket was issued the meal package could not come from Galway, and the contractor could not have it for them, and they had to wait.

6957. Did they run into debt?—They did.

6957A. Besides the relief they gave from the guardians did they get meal and food, for which they will have to pay later on?—They did, certainly.

6958. You are satisfied that the works were good works?—They were excellent works; and, as far as I can see, the work was very well done, and we are very thankful to the gentlemen who were appointed by the Government for the work they gave. But for them there would not be so much work in the locality.

6959. In your district were the depots convenient?—Yes, in my district they were very convenient. There

would be questions arising about Hynea, the contractor, and I wish to allude to the question. There was a large security given by Hynea, and I was very much interested in the poor people having the relief in the proper locality. Mr. McDonagh, of Galway, supplied the meal, and his nephew, Mr. Hynea; and only for those things having been done, perhaps have fever and frightful diseases amongst the people.

6960. Mr. Robinson.—How are the people off this season as to crops?—They are pretty fair.

6961. Is the potato crop good?—It would have been better but for the severity of the spring, and the harvest time was very bad. If the crop had been saved it would have been very good.

6962. Did Mr. Tuke give any relief at all?—No, except in seed potatoes, which have done exceedingly well in the majority of cases.

6963. Mr. Redington.—The question was raised as to certain people who did not appear to be quite destitute, and who were appointed as gangers. Do you approve of that system?—I do, because if you do not put intelligent men over the works they will not be carried out properly, and the poor people, perhaps, will not come in time.

6964. You don't think, therefore, that any of the people in receipt of relief, except the gangers, were not fit to work?—No.

6965. Do you know Owen Donel?—I do.

6966. Did you think he was a person who runs a fit recipient?—He was equally fit as any man in the parish who got it almost. He has his farm, I don't want to interfere at all. Captain Thompson is a very indigent landlord, but I think it will come out afterwards.

6967. You think he is a poor man?—Unless he had got credit he could not have lived.

6968. Mr. Robinson.—Did the guardians take a good deal of interest in the administration of relief?—The guardians did in my district. They attended here every day.

6969. Why did not they take the same interest in it in the boardroom?—If business is obstructed in this way how can you blame men? They were disgraced.

6970. Mr. Klag.—Would not you think it a very queer thing that Owen Donel should pay £6 grand jury com, and at the same time be receiving relief?—I don't know.

6971. Do you think he would do such a thing if Captain Thompson had him there as manager over the farm, and allow his name to be on the rate book?—Is Owen's name on the rate book? I know the shopkeepers could not make a decree on him as he is reduced to absolute poverty.

6972. Did not you hear Mr. Morgan say he paid him £6 com?—Yes.

6973. Do you believe he would allow his name to be on the rate book and on the grand jury book if he were not employed on a road?—You know the world pretty well, and you know chicanery of the world, and you know how to get out of a law suit, too.

6974. Do you consider it a strange thing that the money should be paid by him?—I do not.

6975. What is your explanation?—My explanation is that it is in his name and Pat Donel's and in Captain Thompson's name, and that the granting of cattle is taken off that head for so many months in the year, and then when the public cow collector comes on the land he will make a seizure and take poor man's cattle, and Owen Donel must go and get the money from whoever is interested in the grazing of the land.

6976. In your opinion he is a very poor man?—Yes.

Mr. John J. O'Loughlin, P.R.O., sworn.

CHURCH.

Mr. John J. O'Loughlin.

6977. Mr. Robinson.—What electoral division are you guardian for?—Bilton and Mayras.

6978. It was stated by Father Flannery that Mr. Bourke authorized him to commence relief works?—Yes. I was in that day, and I voted to get the works started in Father Flannery's district and my own.

6979. Did you understand Mr. Bourke to authorize him to commence?—I did. We put it to the poll, and we were defeated by one or two of a majority.

6980. The guardians declined to allow you to commence, in the first instance?—Yes; they said it would be time enough to go on when they were all ready to go on together; and Father Higgins, Father Moloney, and myself started the work, and we selected as gingers the most intelligent persons we could get.

6981. The relieving officer wrote out the tickets at the end of the week?—Yes. Father Moloney had his own parish book and knew the parties. Father Moloney always had his parish book here when signing the books.

6982. Was application made by the people, or did you order them to go on the works?—The priest and myself and the relieving officer were together.

6983. Did you select the people from a list of applicants?—Well, Father Moloney had his parish book and gave a list to the relieving officer.

6984. Did you select them from his parish book or from a list of applicants?—From his parish book.

6985. And I suppose they all followed you about?—Yes, you, running everywhere.

6986. You put on the head of the family in each case?—Yes. There was a rush in the first week, and there was one or two out of each house.

6987. There was a great deal of confusion?—Yes. Every one said he had a good right to work as any, and afterwards they settled down, and they were re-leased properly.

6988. Did you find it difficult to discriminate between good and bad cases?—Yes, just for the first week.

6989. Were all the people put on the works destitute except the gingers?—Everyone to my knowledge.

6990. The gingers you don't consider destitute?—No; they were selected as intelligent people who were to look after the works and hand in a list to the relieving officer. I was offered a calf and a cow for £1 myself.

6991. Did that man get relief?—I gave credit for meal myself. Since I began to give credit I never gave so much before.

6992. Is there much due to you?—About £1,100.

6993. By whom?—By all the people about the country.

6994. Mr. Rodington.—What week did your work begin?—The same week as Father Flannery's.

6995. When were the tickets issued after that?—About the 15th May.

6996. What is your opinion about the stoppage of the relief on the 5th June?—Supposing the 5th June was a Saturday, the relieving officer, owing to the amount of work that was on him, could not reach the giving out of the tickets until the middle of the week, and, in anticipation of the ticket, the contractor would give a week's supply in advance, and then these tickets they would get they would bring them in the middle of the next week again.

6997. Would the ticket on the 16th be payment for the work up to the 5th?—Yes.

6998. Were the works stopped from the 5th to the 15th?—Yes.

6999. And there were no tickets for the week ending the 15th?—No.

7000. Did they get credit then?—They did; in fact, I gave an intensity of credit that week.

7001. On the 16th they got the tickets?—Yes.

7002. They very likely supported them from the 5th to the 15th?—Yes. I sold a great deal of meal

to the people during that week, and I know the way they divided it.

7003. You advanced meal to the people?—Yes.

7004. You only advanced to those who had some credit?—I had a lot of my own customers.

7005. The people you advanced to were not destitute?—They were.

7006. What chance have you of recovering your money?—I generally run the risk. There is money due me these last six or seven years.

7007. Were you running a great risk?—Certainly, and there is no shepherd who could not tell you of the same risk.

7008. In Bilton there were 582 persons on relief on the 5th June, and only 11 on the 12th June?—That is the work we are speaking of.

7009. On the 16th June there were 321 on relief, and on the 3rd July only 11?—The works were all stopped, and then the guardians wrote to know where they to continue the works, and they ceased that week pending the reply from the Local Government Board.

7010. Did you protest?—Yes.

7011. Weren't you aware you were running a great risk?—Yes.

7012. When you found that in spite of the risk you ran no one died, didn't that seem to prove that you had been rather liberal?—No, because notwithstanding all the relief they were trying to raise credit, even coming into my place in Cliftonfort. The worst period was about the middle of April, and the shopkeepers were getting tired of giving credit and they were almost refusing the people.

7013. How did they get on?—Every fellow who could raise credit got it.

7014. And these people you put on the relief work were supported by meal obtained on credit up to the time the relief works were opened?—Yes.

7015. You didn't advance meal to people who had no stock?—I knew different men who went to England and Scotland, and I gave them £10 or £15 credit, until they earned it in England, and they had nothing.

7016. Trusting to their work?—Trusting to their good health and work in Scotland.

7017. Do you know Martin B. Joyce, the pub-lican?—Yes.

7018. He got relief?—That is Myles Joyce, he did not require relief, it was Father Higgins that did. The meal was convenient to his own house, and he asked the priest to allow him to superintend it as he was in a great hurry with the road. The priest asked me to bring it before the Board next day, and I did, and there was no objection to it.

7019. You were quite aware he was not a fit recipient?—Yes, and he only got it for two weeks.

7020. Was it fair to the public, if this road was made for him, that he should be paid for superintending it—could he not have superintended it for nothing?—We did not like, when the priest was asking us a special favour—the guardians would not like to oppose him.

7021. Do you know Paddy Joyce?—Yes.

7022. Is he a poor man?—He is not.

7023. Why did he get relief?—He did not get any, but his son did. Father Moloney selected the son, for every one who knows that country, knows that hardly one of them can read or write. He was selected to superintend that road as he could read and write. We sent for Peter Joyce, and he was not able to read or write, and we had to select Paddy Joyce's son.

7024. There are no destitute persons able to read or write?—Yes, there are, but they were not in this district. I know a great many guardians who can hardly read or write.

7025. Do you know P. Gorman?—Yes. He was selected by the priest as having a large family.

7026. Was he a ginger?—Yes.

7027. You selected those not because they were destitute, but because they were intelligent men?—Yes.

U

CHURCH,
—
Mr. John J.
O'Leahy.

7028. Was there any person in receipt of relief, other than the gungers, who was not destitute?—No, on my oath so far as I know.

7029. Do you approve of the works that were carried out?—Yes.

7030. Mr. D'Amorelli, P.L.C.—Aren't you aware that the board of guardians were under the impression that they could appoint stewards when the roads were commenced?—Yes, and they had a great discussion here on the matter.

7031. And the bulk of the guardians passed to be permitted to employ proper men to see that the people really did some work?—Quite so.

7032. And it was on those grounds that Joyce was employed?—Yes, every one of them. And later on I told "you won't be paid for your labour," and he said he did not care, that the place suited.

7033. Mr. King.—Isn't it a fact that it was discussed whether these men would answer as assistant relieving officers?—Not at all.

7034. But assistant relieving officers were appointed?—There was none of those ever mentioned in connection with the relieving officers.

7035. But isn't it a fact that it was discussed whether respectable men the same as Mr. Joyce should be selected as gungers and do all the work that the assistant relieving officers afterwards did?—I have no recollection of anything. I only recollect that a great many of the guardians made proposal to get proper paid superintendents of the works.

7036. Do you know men named Pat Rielly and Joe King?—I do well.

7037. And Patsy King, Joe Faherty, Abraham Faherty, and Michael McDonagh?—I do well.

7038. Suppose every one of them swore they were making fences for you instead of working on the roads, would that be false?—They were working on the relief road, that was granted here and signed by the chairman, leading up to my house.

7039. How many yards is your house from the public road?—It is more than I could tell you. There are two roads leading to my house. That one was brought specially before the Board by Father Maloney, and it was discussed by the guardians, and it was allowed. The only question the chairman put to Father Maloney was whether the people were proper recipients for relief.

7040. Mr. Robinson.—Was the road authorized by the guardians?—It was.

7041. Mr. King.—If all these people swore they were building fences round your house would that be false?—They were building anything that was useful.

7042. There is an avenue up from the road to your house?—You are quite wrong.

7043. You are after swearing that this road was solicited?—Yes.

7044. And they made a road with a path on both sides?—Yes; that was approved by the guardians.

7045. And they made a fence round about it?—Yes.

7046. Mr. Robinson.—Were the fences along the

road?—Yes, and very much required too. There were different roads brought on after the first time. It is called the Cabul Road.

7047. Mr. King.—Do you know Pat Rielly, Stephen Lenthon, Peter Connolly, and Mary Flynn?—Yes.

7048. And if every one of these came here and said they were spreading turf for you, would that be false?—Yes.

7049. And if they swore they were spreading turf and footing turf for you, and that they were paid for it as relief work, would that be false?—It would, except in this way. You know when the relief works were reduced to three or four days, and not the full week's employment—

7050. Mr. Robinson.—When was that?—The end of June. Then the people used to come to me for two days in the week.

7051. Did you pay them for all the work they did on your farm?—Yes. This only happened when the work was reduced to two or three days.

7052. Mr. King.—Supposing all these parties came in here and swear that you paid them nothing, that it was by relief tickets they were paid for working for you, would it be false?—Yes; and I tell you more, I generally got my turf cut for the last five or six years by one day in the week.

7053. Is this road for the use of the public?—Yes.

7054. For about ten or twenty yards into your house—Isn't your house within twenty yards of the public road?—Yes, it is about 100 on one side and 200 or 300 on the other side.

7055. Do you think it was right and proper for you as Poor-law Guardians to get public money to build an avenue or road, as you say, from the public road into your dwelling-house, where you keep a public-house and store, and to make another road to the rear of the house and surround it with a high fence?—I have a most vivid recollection. It was on the same occasion as the turf cutting. I got them for the remaining days, and paid them myself out of my own pocket with meal and money too.

7056. You swear this was a scheduled road?—Yes. Mr. Robinson, P.L.C.—It was not on the same occasion—it was about a fortnight afterwards, and I saw the chairman signing the order for it.

7057. By Mr. King.—Do you still swear that you paid the men?—I do positively; I paid sums of money myself for the latter part of the week.

7058. Mr. Robinson.—Didn't you say that the work was passed by the Board of Guardians?—I do.

7059. And the people who worked on it were paid by ticket?—Yes, for four days in the week.

7060. Did you pay them for any work on the same road?—Yes, outside the relief works. Three days were allowed for the people to work at that time, and it was very small for the people, and everyone acknowledged they were destitute, and for the other three days I used to pay them myself.

7061. Mr. Robinson.—So that the people were paid portion by you and portion by the relief?—Yes.

Major D'Arcy, J.P., sworn.

Major D'Arcy

7062. Mr. Robinson.—You attended this Board throughout the whole time of the distress?—I never missed a day.

7063. There was a great deal of pressure and confusion from time to time?—A great deal.

7064. Do you think it was inevitable?—I do.

7065. In consequence of the great distress?—Yes; the confusion of the people who came in a mass outside.

7066. Do you think the Guardians had a great deal to contend with?—They had great difficulty to contend with.

7067. Do you think they could have been able to rule the books?—No, I don't think they could. They got their books here on several days. At times

I knew the Board was adjourned when there was no necessity—once or twice.

7068. Under what circumstances was the Board adjourned?—Well, the chairman and some of the guardians did not agree and were annoyed, and then the chairman left the chair.

7069. Then the work did not come to a conclusion in consequence of that?—No; he adjourned the board and then you can't go on again; he left the chair.

7070. Without ruling the books?—Yes.

7071. Were there many cases before him when that was done?—Some days the books were not ruled at all.

7072. Who was the chairman on that day?—Mr. Gordon one day, and I protested against it.

7072. What was the reason of the adjournment without signing the books?—Some difference between the chairmen and some of the guardians.

7073. A personal matter?—There were so many personal matters cropping up; differences, I suppose.

7074. They adjourned the board?—Yes.

7075. With regard to the administration of relief, what observations do you wish to make?—In my district there were three villages I knew, and I had known the position of the people very well. Having been a long time out of the country I did not know the actual amount of distress. They petitioned to get a road where I knew it would be a great use, and I got it scheduled here, and as to all the people who were employed on that I went over them, and as far as I could gather they all required relief at the time. I knew some of them had some few head of miserable cattle and they had to give them their seed potatoes to keep them alive. They could not get seed for them. With regard to the guardians, I knew that to have such works going on and not to have proper persons to look after them was only throwing money away, and I proposed that wherever there was a road there should be guardians appointed to look after the works; to see that they were properly carried out. With regard to the road I took an interest in for those people I mentioned at the board that there was a man who should be appointed named Magrath. I knew he had twelve in family and was in distress, and that although he had cattle he was in distress. I never recommended a single man. I was particular. I did not think it was the place of the guardians to recommend men to be put on; I thought that that was the duty of the relieving officer. I never recommended a single man to be put on. This man was at work and I immediately appointed him guardian on the road, and I believe he saved a great deal. I constantly went on that road and I never saw one that ought not to be on it. If I did I would have had them turned off under the circumstances. With regard to the circumstance Father Flannery mentioned about applying to have roads put on I felt it my duty to vote against him, for I knew it was illegal to open up the roads before the Act was passed, and I thought it should not be put in force in one place more than another, and besides it was illegal, and I believe Mr. Beake's opinion was that Father Flannery's notion should have been heeded.

7076. Why did you think it was illegal?—Because the Act had not been passed.

7077. But the Local Government Board had written, authorising the guardians to anticipate the Act?—I don't think we had that.

7078. Yes; the meeting was the 27th, and the letter was dated the 20th?—I did not think we had the right until the Act was passed.

Rev. Mr. Flannery.—It was understood that the Board had authorised us to anticipate the Act.

Major Dorey.—It was only from a sense of doing what was right that I opposed it.

7080. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think the relief was economically administered?—I do.

7081. What is your district?—It is part of the Clifton Union. It is just two or three townlands where I know about the people, for I have not been long in the country.

7082. Mr. Redington.—The Government grants were £4,422. Do you think relief might have been given within that limit, without taxing the ratepayers, to the extent of £3,000 in addition?—I dare say it might, but it was very difficult. The clergy were the persons who knew the state of the country best. The proprietors or their agents did not come here to see who were the parties, and as I did not know their circumstances, I would not feel justified in having them struck off. If anything happened afterwards I would feel it a very serious thing. I did not strike them off, and I did not put them on.

7083. There was a great chance of the rates having to make up the difference between the Government grant and the expenditure you were incurring?—If it was supposed there was starvation they should be relieved.

7084. Was there danger of starvation every week?—I could not tell you that generally.

7085. Can you tell us why they stopped the relief so suddenly?—I voted strongly against it. I thought that a most extraordinary thing—If you had one hundred men on relief, to strike off twenty or thirty per cent, without going into the individual cases, and, perhaps, striking off those who needed it most. I could not understand that at all.

7086. When that resolution was passed on the 3rd June, did you oppose it?—I did, because to stop all at a moment was a most extraordinary proceeding. I thought afterwards that the Local Government Board could not have thought we were so extravagant as they said, when they sent down and asked us would we extend it a little more.

7087. Mr. King.—Isn't it an account of the letter of the Local Government Board stating that the guardians were extravagant in the relief, that the guardians and they would stop it and use the power vested in the relieving officer?—I thought that our stopping at a moment, without investigating individual cases, a very dangerous thing to do, if we were giving relief as we ought before. No one could take such an interest in them as their designers, the ex-officio guardians did not attend, the duty was thrown altogether on the elected guardians, and no one else seemed to me to take any interest in it, and we could not have the clerical men coming in and stating the men required it. It was very hard for the elected guardians to say they would go against them.

Mr. Cornelius King, P.L.O., sworn.

7088. Mr. Robinson.—You have stated that you object to pay for any of the excess expenditure which will be charged to the rates?—Yes.

7089. Give your reasons for that; do you consider the Act was economically administered by the relieving officers?—I do not.

7090. Can you give us the names of any persons who received relief who were not entitled to it?—I have given you a great many already.

7091. You have not given them; you have cross-examined about them?—This (produced) is the list of persons for the Clifton division, and if I have to pay anything for the relief, I say that every one on that list should not get relief. I will also swear that William Lyden, the smith, was working with Mr. Wilson at the time he received relief, and it was a

long time afterwards I discovered he was on. The books told me not to be signed on the board days, and when I came to protest, I was headed down by the relieving officer and the then Chairman, and I was made a laughing stock, as they say, in the *Galway Observer*.

7092. Mr. Redington.—You say William Lyden was working with Mr. Wilson at the time he was receiving relief?—Yes, and I believe he is second cousin of the relieving officer.

7093. What is Mr. Wilson's name?—Jackson Wilson.

7094. Mr. Robinson.—Does Mr. Lyden, the relieving officer, admit that he was working with Mr. Wilson at the time?—

Mr. A. Lyden.—No.

Charles
Major D'Arcy.

Mr. Cornelius
King.

Cases.
Mr. C. King,
P.L.O.

7095. What about William Conays, did he receive relief?—Yes, they are both residing in the one house.
7096. His brother is a gardener?—Yes, he is paying £60 a year.
7097. Is he living in the same house with the gardener?—Yes, and he was a ganger on this road leading to his own place.
7098. What do you say of Sturanton and Durkin?—The information I received about these was that they were two servant men of Mr. Conays, the poor law gardener, and they never worked a day or a moment on the road.
7099. Did they get relief?—Yes.
7100. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—Yes, the contractor told me that he supplied Mr. Conays with whiskey instead of meal and flour on the Golea.
7101. You think Roche was not a man who should get relief?—No.

7102. Who was the contractor who said that?—Mr. O'Malley. He says he gave whiskey in place of the relief the two servant men were to get.
7103. Who can prove that the two men were not working?—Michael King and John King, two men who were working in the locality.
7104. Jeffrey Conays is not on relief?—I was told by one of the men on the road that he was a ganger on their place. I believe he was.
7105. Mr. A. Lydon.—There was a road laid down through his place. He acted as gangman, but he was not paid.
7106. Mr. C. King, P.L.O.—But is there a son who worked on the road, and was paid in the Enniskillen division?
Mr. A. Lydon.—A son of the gardener?
7107. Mr. C. King, P.L.O.—No, but a son of William Conays?—did he get relief?
Mr. A. Lydon.—I think he did.

Examination of Mr. C. King, P.L.O., resumed by Mr. Edington.

Mr. C. King,
P.L.O.

7108. You don't think him a fit recipient?—No.
7109. How many of the Conays got relief?—James and Jeffrey.
7110. Jeffrey is not on it?—That is all I know about it.
7111. What about Michael Conays?—Yes, he got relief. He came to me to complain about the amount of relief he got; I did not know he was on the relief at all, until he walked in to me on the 25th June. I said where did you get relief, and he said, down on the relief works. "What did you get?" "Here it is," he said, and he laid it down, a stone and a half of flour, half a stone of oatmeal, 1 lb. of sugar, and an ounce of tobacco, and I weighed the whole thing together, the flour, meal, sugar, and altogether they weighed 2 stone 5 lbs. 2 ounces.
7112. What was the money value he got?—As was the relief he was to get.
7113. What is your point?—My point is that he was charged 1s. 10d. a stone for oatmeal, instead of 1s. 7d.
7114. What do you say about John Connolly?—He is a contractor for conveying passengers into the house, and I objected to relief being given to him. There was a bill for £5 10s. for the cartage of passengers before the Board from him.
7115. To your own knowledge?—Yes, I saw it there; I read it, and I understand he is supplying milk to the workhouse.
7116. Don't you know who is the contractor?—We leave that to Mr. Burke, he supplies milk here, and I know he has a farm from the trustees of the representatives of the late Dr. Nagle.
7117. Do you think he pays more than £20 a year rent?—I think so.
7118. Do you think he has more than ten cattle?—Yes, and sheep, too; and I understand he purchased another property here lately.
7119. James Mullin?—He should not get relief either. He is living with his father, who keeps the tolls and customs in the town.
7120. What age is the son?—He is a little over twenty; he lives in the same house with the father.
7121. I suppose the tolls and customs are of considerable value?—Yes.
7122. Stephen Mallin?—His brother is living in the house with him, and my information is that the son was working, but this man was not working on the road at all. I am not able to prove it myself, except from what I am told—that this man was working elsewhere when he got this relief—that the other did not look after the public money at all.
7123. You state that he was working elsewhere when he got the relief?—Yes; his brother was living in the house with him, and I object to give relief to two people out of the same house.

7124. Did you object at the time these names were considered at the Board of Guardians?—I objected to every one of them, and cautioned them about them, but I was beaten down, and Andrew Lydon and his brother went to assault me here one day.
7125. P. Joyce?—He has about half a score of cattle; he has a horse and cart, and he was working at the convent and new presbytery at the time, drawing sand and lime, and he had another son working for Mr. Stanley at the time.
7126. Anthony Mulken?—I objected to him at the Board here.
7127. You say he is well off?—I say he should not get relief, for himself and his brother-in-law are always joined in buying and selling fish, and it was reported he had money lent out at interest.
7128. Does he buy on a large scale?—Yes, but the fish has not been so plentiful in the summer time.
7129. Was there much fish being caught at the time he got relief?—No.
7130. Perhaps he had no means of living?—He could live; he had plenty of work.
7131. Pat King?—I object to two out of the same house.
7132. Who is the other out of the same house?—He had one son working with Mr. Lydon, driving the mail car; he was working on one road, and his son on the other.
7133. You don't object to one of them working?—No, but I object to two.
7134. Were they both getting paid as heads of families?—I could not say.
7135. P. Joyce, junior?—He was working at the convent all the time.
7136. All the time regularly at the convent?—Yes.
7137. John Nes?—He was working at Dr. Oury's.
7138. Constantly employed?—Yes, every day—in fact, on the 25th of May, I thought it my business to go up to where the people were working, and I took the names of every one who was working on the road.
7139. But this man was not working on the road?—No. I think it was his daughter was there that day; it was. I have her name here—Mary Nes.
7140. You are sure she is the daughter?—Yes, I know her. I saw her there.
7141. Stephen Joyce?—He was employed by Mr. Joseph Gorman constant, and he has a pretty good farm convenient to me. I know him since he was a little boy.
7142. You swear he was in constant employment?—Yes, and his son was working on the road.

7143. F. Mulken?—He has no family but himself and his wife, and I was giving him credit for a number of years, and I would give him credit, £30 worth now if he asked it.

7144. You don't believe he wanted it?—He was as much entitled to it as Major Dury.

7144a. Did he require it?—No.

7145. John Stannon?—I don't believe he wanted it either. He could get credit and he got it.

7146. What is his employment?—He's a farmer, and he has cattle and a brood mare.

7147. Thomas Toole?—He had a lot of cattle also, and should not get relief.

7148. Tom Lyden?—The same also; there are two Lydens.

7149. You think he is not a fit recipient?—I am certain of it.

7150. J. Joyce, the publisher who was a ganger?—The relieving officer might as well go and give it to me.

7151. Do you know German, the police pensioner?—I do.

7152. You don't consider him fit?—He has £60 odd as pension.

7153. James Green?—I believe from Mr. Cooke, the gardener, there is no more respectable man in the country. I knew him at the time I was relieving officer myself, and he has a son comes in wearing kid gloves, with a horse and car, and one of the grandest little ponies.

7154. They live in the same house?—Yes.

7155. You knew William Milton?—Yes; he is a distant relative of mine.

7156. You object to his getting relief?—Yes.

7157. Is he a farmer?—Yes.

7158. Pat King?—Yes; these are the only names that were given me. I believe there are many more. There are two Pat Kings in Roundstone, and if they received relief the relieving officer might as well give you relief.

7159. Do you know Tom King, in Joyce's district?—Yes.

7160. Is he a fit recipient?—No.

7161. You heard he was put on by Mr. H. McDonnell?—I don't care who he was put on by.

7162. Do you know Festes King?—Yes; a man who is selling sheep almost every day, and jobbing in cattle.

7163. Do you know Aston?—I was in Letterfrack when he passed me and another man. "There," said the man, "is a man who got relief, and we counted twelve or thirteen bullocks of his that Mr. Joseph Gorman bought from him at the fair."

7164. Are you sure they were his bullocks?—So this gentleman told me, and he admitted afterwards himself they were, and he came to me to complain of my talking about him at the boardroom.

7165. Anthony M'Avonley?—He has a pub-house in Claggan.

7166. Do you know Higgins?—Yes; he has a house in the town of Clifden.

7167. What means of living has he?—He has a very good farm, and cheap too.

7168. Owen O'Donnell?—He is as comfortable a man as there is in that side of the country.

7169. Do you know that side of the country well?—I do, indeed. I know the principal people in it.

7170. Mr. Robinson.—You have given us a list of eighty-seven cases?—Yes; and I object myself to pay anything for these people, for I consider they are not fit cases.

7171. Did you object here?—Yes; every name that came before me I objected to, and I reported to the Local Government Board, but I was brow-beaten down and laughed at when the chairman gave his servant man relief.

7172. Mr. Rodington.—Who is that?—Mr. William Gorman. He is living in the same house with him.

7173. What is the man's name?—Pat Lyden; there was an inquiry about him the other day.

7174. Did Pat get relief?—

Mr. A. Lyden.—Yes; I believe there is no poorer man in the place than William Lyden.

7175. Was he at that time?—

Mr. A. Lyden.—I don't know.

7176. Mr. Robinson.—You consider the cases you have given are typical cases.

Mr. C. King, R.L.C.—Yes; there is another question as to the cheapness of these people. Mr. Lyden has charged some of these people to the Clifden division that should not be charged to it. I applied for the list and I would not be given it. I knew the majority of the names myself, and I wanted to see were they there.

7177. Mr. Rodington.—Did you refuse to show him the application and report book, Mr. Lyden?

7178. Mr. A. Lyden.—No; certainly not.

7179. Mr. Robinson.—Your complaint is that there are several cases wrongfully charged?

Mr. C. King, R.L.C.—Yes.

7180. Mr. Rodington.—Do you consider the cases we have gone into as typical of all the eighty-seven on your list?

Mr. C. King, R.L.C.—Yes, I am satisfied that every one on that list is a perfectly typical case.

Mr. C. King, R.L.C., cross-examined.

7181. Mr. A. Lyden.—Who put the people to work on the Faly-road?—Everyone on Faly-road?

7182. Well, some of them?—It was discussed here in the board-room, and I agree so far as that with Major Dury's evidence. We considered that we should get the most intelligent men in the locality to act as assistant relieving officers or overseers superintending the roads. I thought it was all right and decided upon, and that we were to have no assistant relieving officers, and I went on the Sunday following to Ballymore, and I had to strike out this road, and I said to Flaherty take the poorest in the locality up to twenty-five but no more until Wednesday, when the matter will be brought before the Board and instructions given, and I don't believe he exceeded that number up to the Board day.

7183. Mr. Rodington.—Did you tell him what people to employ?—I said relieve any up to twenty or twenty-five that you see to be extreme cases until the Board decides what is to be done.

7184. Who is Flaherty to whom you gave that order—you authorised him to put twenty-five men on the work?—To pick out twenty-five people.

7185. You left him to decide who were the poorest people?—I named some of them for him, and on the Wednesday following the whole matter was taken out of our hands, and the relieving officer got directions, and I saw no more.

7186. Mr. A. Lyden.—Did you believe Flaherty was a poor man?—No.

7187. Why did you consent?—I was acting on the suggestion made to me at a private meeting.

7188. Did you want me to give relief to Pat Wallis?—I might; and perhaps he was more entitled to it than parties living next door to him.

7189. Mr. Rodington.—Do you believe he was?—No, I do not.

Mr. A. Lyden.—You asked me to give him relief?

—No; I would not for Clifden ask you to give a man relief.

7190. Mr. Rodington.—Do you deny that you asked him to put a man on relief?—I do.

7191. What did you say to him about Wallis?—I could not tell whether there was ever such a thing mentioned at all; but if it was mentioned, I say he is

Cross-examined
Mr. C. King
P.L.C.

Mr. C. King
P.L.C.

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Mr. C. King,
S.E.C.

as much entitled to it, and more than two men who were living in the neighbourhood.

7192. What did you say at that time?—I might have said that at the time.

7193. Mr. Lydon.—How many in family has he?—I could not say; that is your business.

7194. What rent does he pay?—I believe £14.

7195. How many head of cattle has he?—I am not aware.

7196. Do you swear that Convey is not a fit case to receive relief?—No. I know nothing about the man's means—I am only complaining of the price he was charged over the contract price of the meal.

7197. Where had he bought it?—In your shop, I believe.

7198. On your oath, have I a shop in Clifton?—You are living with your mother.

7199. Why do you swear that this man got goods at my shop. Have I a shop in Clifton?—Haven't you as much right to it as your mother?

7200. Not at all—but if I had?—You have no shop in your own name.

7201. Then that is false, isn't it?—I won't answer that, for I did not swear such a thing.

7202. Mr. Redington.—He swears that the man told him he got certain goods from your shop?

7203. Mr. Lydon.—Well, I will swear I have nothing.

7204. Mr. King, &c.—It is in his mother's name to be sure, but she is not the contractor at all, and the man is charged too much for the stuff.

7205. Mr. A. Lydon.—Who put Mullen on the work?—He is a cousin of mine also, and I consigned also afterwards when I found we had to pay for the relief.

7206. Who put him to work?—It strikes me I did. I think I told him the same as I told Flaherty, to take charge until the next board day, and then we washed our hands of it.

7207. Isn't Flaherty the father, a boatman of yours?—Yes.

7208. What does he earn?—He does not earn many things now.

7209. How many head of cattle has he?—I don't know—that is your business, not mine.

7210. How many in family has he?—I don't know, he has one or two.

7211. Mr. Redington.—Aren't they boatmen of yours?—Yes.

7212. Were you ever in his house?—Yes, he has one or two children.

7213. Mr. Lydon.—Why did you pick him out?—Because he was a most trustworthy person to put in my absence until the Board arranged matters, and he was struck off in a week or so.

7214. Are Stephen Mullen and James Mullen brothers?—No.

7215. Didn't you swear they were?—No, I swear Tom was.

7216. Mr. Redington.—Which is the son of the man who has the tolls and customs?—James.

7217. Why did you put him on the relief?—Because it was arranged that we would have these men instead of relieving officers to act as superintendents.

7218. Why did you object to him just now?—I object to him after Wednesday, when I found the thing was all wrong.

7219. Don't you know the relieving officers would have to be paid by the rate?—I knew we would have to pay it. I did not know of this arrangement with the officers.

7220. Mr. Lydon.—Do you swear you objected to him the week after?—I don't know about the week after, but in another week after I did.

7221. In a month after did you want to put him on, and did I report against it?—No, on the contrary; I reported it to the Local Government Board.

7222. You reported Flaherty?—No, it was Mullen I said.

7223. Mr. O'Loughlin, &c.—In John Joyce's case are you prepared to prove that John Joyce the

contractor, got relief?—I asked Convey had he this man as contractor.

7224. Mr. Lydon.—Did you attend a meeting in Clifton to condemn me for not giving those parties 10s. a week instead of what they were getting?—Am I obliged to answer that?

7225. Mr. Redington.—Certainly! I attended the meeting, but I did not speak at all at it.

7226. Mr. Lydon.—What resolution was passed at it?—I forget; it was on the public street.

7227. What was the purport of it?—I think it was condemning Mr. Lydon for not giving them the amount of relief they were entitled to.

7228. Did you say that I should be removed?—I did not speak at all at the meeting.

7229. You joined in it?—I was there the same as anybody else. Mr. O'Hara was the gentleman who spoke and Mr. James Mullen and Mr. Joyce. I have also to swear what came under my notice—that Mr. Lydon exceeded the Board's instructions entirely, and when the relief was refused he increased it the next week.

7230. Didn't you swear that you were at the meetings where I was denounced for not giving the full amount of relief?—I say you have exceeded your instructions—when the Board ordered a certain sum to be given you increased it.

7231. Who put the people to work on the main course road?—I had nothing in the world to do with that.

7232. Did you go up there?—I went there one day.

7233. Did you put any people to work?—No; Mr. Burke told them to go on.

Examined by Mr. Joseph Convey,
Relieving Officer.

7234. Do you think O'Donnell not a fit recipient?—I do.

7235. Are you aware the amount of money he owes and is not able to pay it?—Indeed I am not, to the best of my belief he is well off. The other night he was in my shop and told me all about himself and his brother, and I swear he told me the cattle on that place belonged to himself and his brother said that he was tenant there.

7236. Will you swear Kaffly was relieved?—He was brought under my notice.

7237. You believe James Green is a wealthy man?—I believe he should not get relief.

7238. Do you know his circumstances at all?—All I say about his son coming in with a horse and car, driving policemen and everyone he saw find.

7239. Are you thoroughly acquainted with his circumstances and how he lived?—I could not have a better authority than his own son-in-law.

7240. Is it himself or his son is the problem?—I believe it is the father. He was in my time all through and I never heard it to be changed.

7241. Mr. Redington.—You say that that man is the owner of a public house?—Yes.

7242. And you consider that sufficient reason?—He has a horse and car.

7243. Does that belong to himself or his son?—Until he gets married we have the assumption that it all belongs to him.

7244. Mr. Meehan, &c.—Do you know is it Mrs. Cooke's car he drives in here, who is living in the house with him?—I don't know anything at all about Mrs. Cooke.

7245. Do you believe James Green to be an honest man?—I do.

7246. Do you believe he would leave his brother to die by the road if he was wealthy?—I say there is no more respectable man in Curra than James Green.

7247. Do you think an honest man and a wealthy man would allow his brother to die by the side of the road?—I do not.

7248. Well, his brother died in a neighbour's house within a few miles of him?—I don't know; that is a matter between themselves.

James Mullen, F.R.S., sworn.

CA 2013

Mr James
Mullen.

7258. Mr. Robinson.—What division are you guardian for?—Bridgeman. I think relief was given very fairly in the district. There was one or two parties who should not have got it. I was a party to it myself. There was a squabble about a piece of land, and in consequence of this quarrel I had to make a gauger of one of them.

7259. Who was that?—John Kennedy, and he got works started through his head.

7260. Did you put people on the relief works?—No.

7261. How were they started?—I am told that Kennedy took one out of each house.

7262. Did you mention the names that he was to take?—No; I did not know half of the people.

7263. You trusted him?—Yes; himself and another boy.

7264. Were they relieving officers?—They were not; they were gaugers. We scheduled each road that was to be put on, and we arranged with the priest and the guardian as to who was to be put on.

7265. Was there a resolution on the subject?—I think so; and it was arranged that the priest and the guardian would start the men on the road first, and then the relieving officers were to go over the roads. It was thought there would be overseers, but the Local Government Board would not allow overseers. They told us to take intelligent men out of the labouring classes.

7266. Then these road works were started neither by the priest nor the guardian?—No.

7257. But by Kennedy?—Yes.

7258. You were to employ a gauger?—Yes.

7259. And you were to leave the selection of the people who were to work on the works to him?—Yes; we could not go through to every village to pick out people.

7260. Was it by resolution or was it a verbal understanding?—There was an understanding.

7261. Mr. Bridgeman.—Even according to your own statement you did not do your duty. You did not even select the people, you left it to Kennedy to select them?—I could not know half the people.

7262. But the priest might have done so?—Yes. I went on the road and seen the people working myself.

7263. Mr. Robinson.—Why did you not tell the relieving officer who was to be on the works?—I went with the relieving officer on the road.

7264. Mr. Bridgeman.—But they were started by Kennedy first; you then sent the relieving officer. Would it not have been better to have sent the relieving officer first?—He could not be everywhere.

7265. Did you consider it consistent with your duty as a guardian to delegate your power to Kennedy?—We only took one man out of each house.

7266. You left Kennedy to select the men?—No, I sent them all and checked over the list from Wolseley day.

7267. Mr. Robinson.—Was the list much altered by yourself or the relieving officer?—No.

Mr. J. Burke, Clerk of Union, recalled.

7268. Mr. Robinson.—Was there any resolution passed by the guardians and put on record, authorising the guardian of the division and the priest to send the people who were to go on the works?—Except the one that I showed already there was not. There was no written regular resolution to that effect; but at the time they stopped the works there was a resolution passed; but at the beginning of the works there was none.

7269. Was there an understanding at the beginning of the works?—There was some talk about it. There was no definite resolution.

7268. Was there any understanding come to, verbal or written, that the priest and the guardian were to select who were to be on the works?—There was a sort of understanding about it.

7269. A sort of understanding?—Yes, that they would select parties, proper recipients for outdoor relief, and put them on the road, and that was the course adopted in nearly every case.

7270. Did you not suggest to the chairman that that was rather an unusual mode of proceeding, ignoring the relieving officer altogether?—(No answer.) The inquiry was adjourned till next day.

Mr. J. Burke.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14th, 1886.

CLIFDEN UNION.

The Commissioners resumed the Inquiry.

Mr. A. N. Cowyn, Local Government Board Inspector, sworn.

7271. Mr. Robinson.—When were you appointed in charge of this union?—I was here about the 25th May for the first time.

7272. The relief works were not in operation at that time?—In full swing.

7273. Did you attend the board that day?—I attended it on the 26th.

7274. How many did you find on the works at that time?—About 18,000.

7275. And the proceedings which had been adopted had been started quite independent of you?—Yes; quite independent of the guardians as far as I could learn.

7276. How was that?—There was no application made to the guardians in the first place at all. It appeared that the plan adopted was that the local guardian and very often the priest, I believe, or some

one outside the guardians altogether, put people on the works, and when I came here the books were not written up at all. That is precisely in accordance with the evidence of the relieving officer. He said they were put on by other people, and he went and took the names of those he found on the works.

7277. Did you read to the guardians instructions on the subject?—I read the circular and explained it to them and tried to impress upon them the fact that they would have to pay for this, which they did not appear to think.

7278. When did you do that?—On the 26th May.

7279. Did the guardians pay attention to what you suggested?—They seemed inclined to do it, but at the same time there was no time that day to get the books in order. They were not in order and they promised to get the books in order as soon as they could.

Mr. A. N.
Cowyn.

Dec 14, 1886

CHURCH
Mr. A. S.
Cooper.

7280. Therefore on the 26th May they were fully acquainted as to the illegality of the course they were adopting?—Yes.

7281. Did you find it possible to induce them to change?—They promised to change when I came here some days afterwards in attending the board and I still found that they had not the names placed in the relief book.

7282. When was that?—About the 8th.

7283. Then the guardians had no knowledge for some time as to who were working?—No; except getting the general return from the relieving officer, when the relieving officer said there were so many men there.

7284. That return was not got until after the works were commenced?—A long time.

7285. Therefore the administration of the relief was not in the hands of the guardians?—No.

7286. Beyond the resolution, do you know of any steps they took to curb the illegality?—Immediately after that, in the month of June, they told the members relieved run up to something like 18,000, and I came here and saw Mr Bourke and we talked the matter over and I impressed upon him the necessity of trying to bring them into a proper way. He was most anxious to do so, and shortly after that they stopped the relief works almost altogether.

7287. Were you present when they stopped altogether?—No; I was not here, but I was here on the 9th June, that was the Board meeting after that.

7288. Did the guardians appear to think there was any risk in stopping the works altogether?—No; they did not seem to think so.

7289. As to the manner in which they dealt with the relieving officers' books, were they submitted to him?—Yes; afterwards they were, when they stopped in June, and the thing began to get into ship shape, in fact.

7290. You heard justice lay from Father Flannery that the proceedings of the guardians were carried out in a thoroughly unbusiness-like manner, and a great deal of foreign discussion took place?—I regret to say that, at the three meetings I attended, half the time was occupied in conversation between different sections of the Board, and about guardians mixing themselves up with contractors, and I believe a great many of the charges were true.

7291. And you think that if they confined themselves to the business before them they would have been able to do a great deal towards ruling the books?—They would have been able to do a great deal.

7292. Have you any knowledge of the proceedings outside the Board about the people on the works?—No; only what I heard from the relieving officers, that they were unable to cope with the number, that the people were put there, and that the best thing they could do was to get their names.

7293. Who did they say was it who put them on the works?—It was generally the priest and the guardian. It was generally understood that that would be done, that the priest and the local guardian should name the persons.

7293a. And the guardians did not record that understanding by resolution?—No; it was an understanding, there was no order. I was impressing upon them on the 26th that that would not do, that they should investigate each case, and then they promised to do it, and some time in the month of June they did.

7294. Until this time the guardians did nothing to watch the interest of the outspayers?—I am afraid they did not take as much trouble as they might. Of course there is this to be said, the thing came with a rush, and once the ball was sent rolling it was hard to stop it.

7295. Did you not find fault with them, as Inspector, for allowing other persons to put people on the works on the road?—Certainly, I pointed that out, that it was their business to investigate every case before relief was granted.

7296. When was it they altered their course?—About the middle of June.

7297. Did you go about the country at all?—Yes.

7298. So far as you are able to say, was there any abuse?—I think so. I think 18,000 out of a population of about 22,000—24,000 in the season, but it is generally supposed about 2,000 had left the union, and the population was about 22,000, and of this over 18,000 got relief out of the whole population of 22,000.

7299. Do you think the people did a fair amount of work?—Well, I went over, I think, on the 25th May, and I visited eight different works, and I only saw one gang of men out of the whole eight at work. I arrived at half-past ten. I was seen coming up the mountain. They assembled, and I asked the gangs about the work, and he said my horse was from eleven till eight. The next man I went to was in Selernia, and I found the men, at half-past twelve, idle, and he said my horse was from five to twelve.

7300. Five in the morning?—Yes; he worked until half-past twelve. The third man I went to at half-past one, and he said they had only just ceased working, and out of the eight I found only one at work. I reported that to the guardians, and the guardians passed a resolution here that they should work from seven till four, with an hour in the middle of the day.

7301. In what part of the county are these works?—Towards Letterfrack, towards the sea, and round by Selernia.

7302. Do you think the full amount of work was done?—I think the work done was pretty fair. But I don't think the quantity of work was at all equal to the quantity of people employed.

7303. What number were on the works?—There were none of them working, so I could not tell that. I got a return at the time, and I mentioned it at the time to the guardians. The relieving officers made absolutely no inquiries in many cases as to the circumstances of the people.

7304. Considering that the information they had about them was sufficient to justify them in giving relief, do you think the relieving officers could know the circumstances of the people from day to day?—Well, I think the guardians were more to blame than the relieving officers. I think they threw the bulk of the responsibility on the relieving officers, and if they had done their own duty, the probability is the relieving officers would have done their better. But when any investigation took place at the Board, it was always the relieving officer did everything.

7305. Do you know of any case from the commencement to the end of the infill, when the guardians ruled the books and gave instructions in every case laid before them for the following week?—I cannot. My impression is that the ruling of the books always invariably had reference to what had passed instead of the future, but from the middle of June, from that out, the books were fairly kept, and an effort was made, and I think successfully made, to carry out the thing legally.

7306. What time was distress at its worst?—There were various opinions upon that. I heard some people say it was worst in April, and I heard a great many people say it was just before the new potatoes came in that it was worse than in April, others said that it was worst in June, until the new potatoes came in.

7307. Mr. Redington.—What is your own opinion?—I think it was as bad until the potatoes came in, as it was at any time.

7308. Up to what date?—Up to early in July.

7309. Do you know whether they got anything but meal on their relief tickets?—I am afraid they did. I got the guardians to pass a resolution. Several complaints reached me that they were getting flour and groceries, and even whiskey.

7310. Whiskey?—Yes; these things were reported to me and I have no doubt they were getting groceries and tobacco. In fact, several inquiries came down from the Local Government Board for my observation.

7311. The orders were for food?—No; the orders were for meal, and I got a resolution passed on the 29th that meal was to be given.

7312. Mr. Burke.—As a general rule, was it meal that was given?—There might be exceptional cases.

7313. Mr. Redington.—What was the order for?—

Mr. Burke.—For meal.

Rev. Mr. Flannery.—I believe you have admitted fully that there was distress and deep distress.

Mr. Conyn.—I never denied that. It was only a question whether sufficient supervision had been exercised in the selection of persons to receive relief. I think there was distress.

Rev. Mr. Flannery.—I think there was authority from the Board of Guardians that it was to be left to the priest and the guardian as to who were to be on the works.

Mr. Conyn.—I add there was an understanding that the priest and the guardian were to select.

7314. Rev. Mr. Flannery.—Although there was no resolution, it was brought by discussion before the Board?—

Mr. Conyn.—Yes; that is what I said.

7315. Mr. Redington.—In what electoral division were those weeks you visited?—They were in Ballygar and Solema.

7316. Rev. Mr. Flannery.—In the district I represent, you did not find the people off the roads?—

Mr. Conyn.—No; as far as my observation went, any weeks I saw in the district Father Flannery mentioned, appeared to me to be better than in any other districts—I told you that at the time.

Rev. Mr. Flannery.—Our district was entirely isolated, and it required a gentleman officially connected with the Board to inspect these before they really understood what is being done.

Mr. Conyn.—I think there is no doubt about it, the work was carried on better in your district than in any I saw.

Chairman.

Mr. A. B. Conyn.

Mr. John Burke, Clerk of Union, sworn.

7317. Mr. Robinson.—I have a return here of the Exchequer of the union on the ordinary expenditure to the 29th September?—That return is correct.

7318. Is that the liabilities for all the expenditure?—That is for everything exclusive of the seed rate.

7319. What is this £4,492 composed of?—That is the balance against the divisions.

7320. Excessive of the Relief of Distress Act?—Yes; the whole thing is £7,384.

7321. The excess over grants is £3,074 5s 3d, that is the liability under the Poor Relief Act, and £4,492 for ordinary expenditure?—Yes; this is the auditor's last certificate for the half-year ending 25th March, 1886.

"The above is a correct statement of the balance Dr. and Cr. taken from the union ledger to date. Financial state of the union, although unsatisfactory, cannot be attributed to mismanagement, but to the unfortunate poor state of the people and the inability of the collectors to collect the seed rate. The uncollected poor rate to the 25th March would meet the liabilities to that date, while a sum of £1,800 has been paid to the Board of Works for seed loan above the amount collected. This amount has been paid out of the general funds of the union, and if it had been collected in the seed rate would have given a credit balance in bank."

—JAMES O'HARA, Auditor."

7322. What was the financial position of the union on the 29th September? What were your total liabilities?—There was due the treasurer £1,064; unpaid accounts, £5,243; and for the seed loan, £298.

7323. When was that due?—It is due now.

7324. How much is that altogether?—£7,324.

7325. What were your assets then?—The available rates were about £1,140.

7326. When was this return made?—About a fortnight ago.

7327. The outstanding rates were £1,140 on the 29th September last?—Yes.

7328. What were the Parliamentary grants due to that date and unpaid?—There was no Parliamentary grant due till that date.

7329. What was the whole thing that should come in there as special?—After taking the whole thing it was about £200.

7330. So that the total liabilities at that time, deducting the assets, came to £5,984?—Yes.

7331. So that in addition to £5,984 you had to provide for the expenditure of the current year?—Yes.

7332. And the expenditure of the current year came to about £4,276?—Yes, about that.

7333. When was the estimate laid before the Guardians?—Early in September.

7334. When did you proceed to prepare it?—By Mr. John Burke.

7335. When had you it completed?—About the end of August, I think.

7336. You laid it before the Guardians?—Yes, early in September.

7337. I believe it is the practice to levy the rate very early in the year?—We put it in collection about October or November.

7338. When is it signed by the Guardians?—About the first week in September.

7339. It was not signed by the Guardians then?—No.

7340. What was the reason of the delay?—The immense pressure of work. They adopted a small rate first, and the Local Government Board objected to it, and it took some time to bring it forward again.

7341. How did you estimate the average daily number of paupers relieved in the workhouse?—I took the relief list and I compared the two half-years with the number in the house, and averaged the three numbers together; then I averaged so much for the union at large.

7342. The balance against the electoral divisions on the 29th March was £4,492?—Yes.

7343. How did you make out the total estimate in column 4?—It is half of column 10, which is the expenditure estimate for the year from the 29th September, 1885, to the 29th September, 1887. Then I halve that for the half-year.

7344. Then you have to add to it the expenditure under the Poor Relief Act?—Yes.

7345. How did you get that expenditure?—It is the same as that return before you.

7346. And that was made up from the returns you get from the relieving officers?—Yes.

7347. Is it fairly correct?—It is substantially correct.

7348. The indoor relief expenses—in that greater or less than last year?—I think it is a little greater.

7349. Why do you estimate it a greater amount? It is a little higher.

7350. On what did you base this estimate?—On the numbers taken from the relief list. I averaged the numbers for so many half-years, and then I charged so much a head all round for the numbers.

7351. Other poor relief expenses, £936—that is the establishment charge; has there been any increase in it?—There was an increase for the extra work under the Relief of Distress Act, and for additional salaries.

7352. Recommendation for additional duties?—Yes, there is very little change.

X

Citizen
Mr John
Barbo

7355. Was the cost of the tools charged to the establishment?—Certainly.

7356. Not to the division where the expenses were incurred?—No.

7357. Was Colonel O'Hara made aware of that?—The charge did not come before him yet.

7358. Expenses under the Medical Charities Act—is that increased?—I have not furnished a return showing that; the Clifton dispensary district is valued at £7,360, and the average poundage rate for keeping up two dispensaries there is 11d. in the pound. The Inishkeeffe medical officer and the dispensary are kept up out of that district, while if you take Inishkeeffe off (its valuation is £280) the valuation of Clifton then would be £5,610, and the average poundage rate on the Clifton district would be 6d. in the pound; the area of the Clifton district is 49,762 acres, with a population of 9,593, whilst Inishkeeffe has an area of 2,000 acres, and a population of only 1,161. Thus the district outside here is taxed for the support of the medical officer in Boffin.

7359. Do you think it would be possible, without risk to the poor, to carry on a branch dispensary at Clifton and to abolish the medical officer in Boffin?—My idea, the Local Government Board should give more assistance and take this over themselves.

7360. That they should pay the whole thing instead of half?—Yes; here you have this thing put in the same rate all over Ireland, while a poor union like this with only £17,600 of a valuation is put on a par with a union value at perhaps £300,000, and I think it is not fair to be taxing poverty for the support of poverty.

7361. That would require a new law altogether?—Certainly.

7362. Assuming that a new law could not be carried out, do you see any economy that could be exercised in the medical charities?—I would do away with the Inishkeeffe dispensary altogether, or else add it to another district.

7363. In any time the medical officer of Inishkeeffe used to give an extraordinary amount of certificates that outdoor relief was required, so that it rated the rate to 15s. in the pound for outdoor relief alone?—Yes.

7364. That gentleman has ceased to hold office since?—Yes.

7365. Who is the present officer?—Dr. Harbo is the present man.

7366. Does he give those certificates to the same extent?—I don't think he does.

7367. In the outdoor relief grant at present in Boffin?—No, 12s. or 15s. a week.

7368. I believe the guardians found it very difficult to check the outdoor relief?—There was no check when the doctor certified that it was necessary, there was nothing else to be said, it should be done. In the Roundstone district, comprising a valuation of £5,570, the poundage rates required in that district for the support of the two doctors is 1s. 3d.; it is divided into two districts, the area is 71,000 acres, and the population is 3,549, while Carna has a population of 3,570, and you may say that it is 1s. 4d. in the pound for medical expenses; Carna is just as poor as Boffin and should be dealt with in the same way; I believe one medical officer would do as well as two.

7369. Mr. Redington—How do you mean to deal with it?—I would abolish one of them.

7370. Would you have no medical officer for Carna?—No; I would have a medical officer resident in Cashel.

7371. Is there one resident in Carna now?—No; in Killybeg, at the far end of it.

7372. Mr. Redington—Is not Roundstone nearer to Clifton than Carna to Roundstone?—I think Cashel would be the proper place.

7373. You think that that expenditure might possibly be reduced in that way?—Yes. Of course the question as to the hardship it might involve to the destitute poor you can get better information from Father Flannery about.

7374. Do you think economy in the purchase of medicines and in the administration of medicines by the medical officers is possible?—I believe there is a good deal of loss in those medicines in these dispensary houses.

7375. Do you think there is waste?—I am sure there must be.

7376. Have you ever had an opportunity of comparing the invoices of medicines obtained by these officers of Clifton with those in the unions of Westport and Oughter?—No, I hear some complaint of it everywhere.

7377. Can you give me an idea of the cost of medicines in this union?—I will say on an average, one year with another, each dispensary costs about £25 a year.

7378. For medicine?—Yes.

7379. How many dispensaries have you?—Five.

7380. With regard to instruments is that included in that?—Yes; there is very little for instruments.

7381. You are not able to form an opinion whether economy is observed in the administration of these medicines?—No.

7382. You don't know whether they purchase expensive medicines when less expensive ones would have the same effect?—I often go through the invoices, and if I find a large item, such as £8, I make inquiry about it and I find out whether it is a thing likely to be required.

7383. Do the Dispensary Committees meet often?—No; they rarely have a meeting unless there is an appointment of medical officers to be made.

7384. They don't exercise much check over the medicines?—None whatever.

7385. Do the guardians exercise any check over it and the medical officers?—No.

7386. So that if a medical officer requires an invoice of medicine he has to get it?—Yes; in fact the guardians know nothing about it.

7387. And, therefore, you are all in the dark as to what is going on in the dispensaries?—Quite.

7388. Not much economy could be exercised in the registration expenses?—No.

7389. Does it take £1,300 a year to carry on this union?—On an average yearly we could not do it less.

7390. Could you reduce your outdoor relief at all?—The outdoor relief is very heavy. But if you take into account what poor districts we have here it is not so heavy. There is Sligo and all about the sea coast there is an immense deal of poverty, and some parts of the year you could not do away with it altogether. The Board of Guardians and myself do everything we can to keep it down; and Mr. King there is very hard about outdoor relief, and we cannot reduce it.

7391. And you think it could not be reduced?—It might be a little, but nothing considerable.

7392. Tell me the grounds on which the guardians gave outdoor relief?—If there is a certificate from the medical officer that the man cannot be recovered?—Yes.

7393. Do they give it to widows with two children?—As a rule it is altogether provided relief, and it comes before the Board week after week for their sanction.

7394. Do they never give outdoor relief themselves?—Hardly, if ever.

7395. They have not much check over the provision relief?—No, except when it comes before the Board, and is discussed before the whole Board.

7396. And they tell them whether they are to continue it?—Yes, if they approve of it it is ruled.

7397. You may say that the £331 is in a greater part applied to the relief of cases of sudden necessity?—Yes.

7398. And a great many of them are persons who could not be recovered?—No.

7399. Is there much fever in the district?—None.

7400. Is there usually much fever in the district?—

For the last five or six years there has been very little fever or epidemic of any sort.

7429. With regard to the indoor maintenance expenses, are the contracts high?—No, they are rather low.

7430. Are they low compared with Galfway and Outward districts?—I think they are.

7431. How do you manage to make them low?—There is a good deal of competition.

7432. Are the widows you get good?—As far as I see they are very fair.

7433. What is the contract price of milk?—Milk is very low; I dare say there is a saving of £300 a year in the milk. I get milk from all the poor people about myself.

7434. There is no contract?—No; there is a certain sum fixed, and I have only been giving 1½d. a quart.

7435. That is 6d. a gallon?—Yes.

7436. Is it good milk?—Nothing could be better. We have twenty-four women coming every day with their cans, and say that is not good is not taken.

7437. That involves a great deal of trouble?—It does to be sure.

7438. Are you certain of being able to get the full supply each day?—I could double it.

7439. It saves the Union a good deal?—Yes, I could hand you the receipts for each week for the last seven years. The milk is taken in by the master, and the receipts are witnessed by the porter daily, and the woman brings up the bill and I pay it. They would give it for anything I would almost offer them to get their money so regular.

7440. Is the clothing contract on fair terms?—Yes, there used to be a little laxity.

7441. I was through the workhouse yesterday and the inmates appear to be badly clothed—they appeared to be in rags?—Well, we keep it up pretty well.

7442. What are your charges for officers?—It is a little higher this year.

7443. What are the customary charges?—About £300 or £700 a year.

7444. What are the intern officers?—Minster, matron, hospital nurse, schoolmistress, and porter.

7445. No schoolmaster?—No.

7446. Are you able to manage without him?—Well.

7447. Have you got a fever hospital?—No.

7448. How do you manage?—The hospital nurse looks after that.

7449. There is generally a ward mistress, is there not?—Well, no, we rarely have a case of fever. Cancer is very prevalent in this country, and they generally keep them in the hospital separate from the rest.

7450. How many relieving officers have you?—Four.

7451. What are their salaries?—One has £30, two for £25 each, and one has £10.

7452. Who is the man who has £30?—Lyden.

7453. Who are the two who have the £25?—Joyce, Charvon.

7454. They all have a great deal of travelling?—Yes.

7455. Why does Lyden get more than the others?—He has a larger population and a larger area.

7456. What is the principle on which he gets £30?—Sometime ago he got £40 and then it was reduced.

7457. Who has the £10?—The relieving officer of Boffin.

7458. What salaries have they as sanitary officers?—That includes all.

7459. Do they give you any value for the proportion of their salaries, that is, for sanitary purposes?—Yes, I think they do fairly.

7460. What is the master's salary?—£40 and widows.

7461. And the matron's salary?—£30 and widows.

7462. How dare there been any increase in the master's salary?—None.

7463. Have you any assistant?—No. Lately I

have since the Relief of Distress Act came in, but in ordinary years, no. It was almost impossible to keep up with the duties.

7464. What is the salary of the clerk?—£100.

7465. What has the porter?—£16 a year.

7466. Can you suggest any economy in the establishment charges which would have the effect of materially reducing the rates?—Not materially.

There might be some little economy which might have the effect of giving ½d. (one halfpenny) in the £ or scarcely a halfpenny. The total estimate with the balance against the divisions comes to £16,944.

7467. And against that you have credits, rates and everything else amounting to £8,978?—Yes.

7468. So that the total amount that you have to meet this year is £8,066?—Yes.

7469. Of the available rates outstanding you have taken as credit, how much is irrecoverable?—About £1,100 collectable.

7470. You don't mean to say that there is only £1,100 collectable?—Yes; I don't think we will ever be able to collect the rest.

7471. Has it been outstanding from year to year?—The seed rate has.

7472. The other is the current rate?—Yes.

7473. How much is the seed rate and how much is the poor rate?—Of that £5,000 that was due in March there is £1,140 poor rate, and you may take £250 out of that, for I don't think you will ever get a penny of the Boffin rate.

7474. How much seed rate was outstanding on the 29th September?—£2,783.

7475. Of the £4,015 outstanding on the 29th September how much collectable?—About £1,000.

7476. Why is the seed rate uncollectable?—It is scattered all over the place and it was given in such a way that it was impossible to trace it.

7477. Is that due now?—Yes.

7478. Have you another instalment beside this coming on?—No, the last instalment is in the books.

7479. There is one instalment you have been given time to collect until next April?—Yes, it is in abeyance. There was nothing collected at all at the last rate, and it is impossible now to get a penny of it at all.

7480. Of the £2,783 how much would be collected?—The fact of the having been suspended for twelve months makes it impossible to get half from these poor people, and where you have such a large population as 5,345, with a valuation under £4, it is impossible to get money from them.

7481. But it is a very small amount for each?—No, it is a pound or two on most of them.

7482. Is not it a very unfair thing to the rate-payers at large that while these people have got the seed, and use it too, they are not to pay?—There is not a fourth of them here—they are all dead and gone or emigrated.

7483. Would their successor not be liable?—No, only for the amount due by himself; and that leaves us very little to collect.

7484. If a fair effort was made to collect it, do you think it would be successful?—They have done everything they can do to collect it.

7485. They have not begun to collect the last instalment?—Certainly they have.

7486. Is there any portion of this arrears?—Yes, they are all arrears, and they have done their very best to collect it and they cannot get it.

7487. When you closed your rate I suppose you carried forward your arrears of rate into the new rate?—Yes.

7488. And this new rate was suspended until April?—Yes.

7489. And therefore the arrears are included in it?—Yes.

7490. What was the total seed rate in this union?—About £4,000.

7491. How much of that was collected?—Something over £1,100.

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Mr. John Burke.

QUESTIONS.
Mr. John
Hicks

7460. From the very first?—Yes.
7461. So that some of the first instalment has been carried forward?—They never get a penny at all of any rate in Boffin.

7462. I don't think they have done their best?—They have done their very best. The Guardians appointed three different collectors at 2s. 6d., and they failed to collect one penny of it.

7463. How many seed notes have you had?—Four.
7464. You have not put four into the course of collection?—I did; three and the last one.

7465. So that out of this instalment you have only collected £1,100?—Yes.

7466. How much have you not paid of the total loan to the Board of Works?—About £3,000.

7467. So that you have only £800 left to pay that?—Yes.

7468. You have paid to the Board of Works the seed loan although you have not collected it?—Yes.

7469. Did they impose any of your rates?—Yes, they did the first time and forced us to pay them.

7470. So that the seed rate is a fictitious asset?—Yes.

7471. Supposing the union was cleared off now, in the end of a few years when you came to wind the seed loan up you would be no better off?—Unless you wiped out that, there would be no use. Nearly every union is differently situated from ours. We have three thousand agricultural holdings valued at less than £3.

7472. Mr. Robinson.—Can the delivery be proved?—No, not in every case.

7473. Is there a different matter?—Nearly everything is different.

7474. Mr. Robinson.—Is there no person who has paid an instalment as an admission of his liability?—You would have to go to Minnesota to look for them.

7475. Mr. Robinson.—But if a man has paid one instalment is not his successor liable?—Supposing one of these men went away and that two rates remained after him, all the subsequent occupier would be liable to what became due after he came in.

7476. But he could not deny the receipt of the seed when one instalment had been paid?—It is very questionable whether he could not.

7477. Is not a payment of one instalment by the tenant proof of the seed having been received?—Would it be proof in the subsequent occupier?

7478. I am asking that question?—I doubt it very much. So far as my own opinion is concerned it would not.

7479. It is obvious when an owner paid an instalment it is an admission that he got the seed. He sells his holding and goes away, and another instalment becomes due—how can the successor raise the point when his predecessor admits the delivery?—It is very hard to prove the delivery.

7480. Is it necessary?—I never seen the point decided; but I think it would be.

7481. Mr. Robinson.—According to your estimate the £3,000 is what you require—what rate does that involve over the union?—Very nearly 4s. in the £.

7482. From 2s. 6d. to 4s. in the different divisions?—Yes.

7483. Is there any difficulty in this union in collecting a rate like that?—Great difficulty; very great difficulty.

7484. Is the union better circumstanced than it was a year ago?—No, it is worse.

7485. And they are less able to pay?—Yes.

7486. Why is that?—The poverty of the people. The small occupiers who were then able to get the rate got 6d. prices for their cattle and for the little oats they had, and now they have none.

7487. Mr. Robinson.—And they are worse off now than they were five years ago?—Yes.

7488. Worse than '79 and '80?—Yes, worse; they are becoming more depressed every year. The resources of the country are failing altogether.

7489. Mr. Robinson.—Would a railway be of any service?—It would be a help.

7487. Would you be able to pay a rate for it?—I would pay myself although I would make little use of it myself. Everybody looks upon it as most important for the benefit of the country. In fact, it is their only hope, and I am sure they would make every effort in their power to have it done. But, at the same time, with their poor rate and county rate and everything, it would be impossible to pay much.

7487a. Mr. Robinson.—You say the country is worse now than in '80?—Yes, the resources of the country are much less than they were then. I have a return of the rates struck in '80. There were only seven electoral divisions with rates above 4s., a good many below that. We were just then commencing the depression in '80. We had not then realised exactly how we stood, and every year from that it increased.

7487b. The divisions that paid 4s. in '80 are not so well able to pay 4s. now?—Certainly not.

7488. How did these lower rates carry on the union at this time?—There are some of these divisions there are scarcely any paupers in the houses from at all, except their share of the union at large charges. And then the Poor Law Rating Act has made some change; it reduced the Old Poor rates very much, and imposed about 3d. in the £1 in the other divisions.

7489. Then will the union not be able to meet its liabilities in the future?—I don't believe this union would be able for the future to pay more than an average 2s. 6d. rate.

7490. Yet the guardians have struck a 4s. rate this year?—What can they do when they are pressed by the Local Government Board; they insisted upon paying some share of the separate relief.

7491. Then 2s. 6d. won't carry on the union?—No, of course it will not.

7492. What is to become of the union?—I say the Local Government Board or the Government must devise some means of relieving the people, either by an extension of the area, by grants from the Government, or something of a small special rate all over Ireland, on the same principle as the Contagious Diseases Act, a 1s. or a halfpenny, and leave it to the administration of the Local Government Board, and when the rates go above a certain thing in the division, let the Local Government Board inquire into the matter, and relieve it to a certain extent.

7493. Mr. Robinson.—That would raise great opposition in other Unions where they would have taxation without representation?—Well, they have the Education and Contagious Diseases Act, and they are worked on that principle.

7494. But they all profit by those Acts?—Yes, but the poor union must be benefited some way or other. It is too bad for the Government to say to the poor man he must be the same as the rich man.

7495. What will this 4s. rate produce?—About £1,500.

7496. What deficiency will there be?—You will have about £5,000 of debt.

7497. What are you to do with this debt?—That is for you; I would like to hear what the guardians have to say on the subject. I don't say anything on the face of the earth to meet the union you cease to our assistance about it.

7498. Supposing you got a loan spread over three or four years?—That would raise our rating. The best thing is to put your hands into your pockets and clear out the balance; that is the only thing I can advise you to do, for really we are doing our best.

7499. Mr. Robinson.—When was the Boffin Dispensary established?—About fifteen years; it is a station of the Clifton dispensary district.

7500. Mr. Robinson.—The expense of vaccination has been doubled?—That is another thing. I think for vaccination 2s. is too much altogether; it comes direct, and it is a very high tax.

7501. Mr. King.—About the sanitary officers—do

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you think the consulting sanitary officer is required in this union?—Not particularly.

7501. What is his salary?—£30 a year. That would be only saving £20.

7502. Rev. Mr. Flannery.—Why do you consider that one doctor would do for the district of Carna and Roundstone?—I saw Clifton Union with two medical officers and a much larger population than now, and it was better worked.

7503. When?—Twelve or twenty years ago.

7504. Would not you say that medical aid is required in twenty instances when there is distress, to the one case in which it would be required if the people were well off?—No doubt; and if there was an epidemic it would be easy to employ a man temporarily.

7505. Taking the country as it stands now, do you believe that one medical officer would do?—I believe by putting a proper officer in Cahel he would do all the district.

7506. What would be the extent the people would have to come from the remotest part in the parish?—The same as at present. I would have a dispensary station in Roundstone, and let it be attended on certain days, and another in Cavan, and it would give him something to do, instead of spending half his time doing nothing.

7507. Do you know the nature of the district?—Well.

7508. Do you know that the district is not opened, and that there are no roads?—There are roads, except to the small islands.

7509. Are there roads from Letterard, where there are eighty families?—Eighty is not so much.

7510. Are there roads from Ard and Mace, where there are 300 families?—You are making roads every day.

7511. What is the distance the poor man would have to travel from any parish to Cahel to go to the

medical officer—say from Mace?—I don't know anything about the distance.

7512. Would he have to travel from twelve to thirteen miles?—I don't know.

7513. How many miles is it from Kilkern to Cahel?—Well, with a little care it would be very easy to meet this case. If the people know there is a medical officer in Carna on a certain day in the week, it would be no great trouble for them to go there with their tickets, and to give him due notice when a person is sick, and the same in Roundstone.

7514. That being so, could they in cases of infection give notice?—There would be exceptional cases all the world over.

7515. Could they give him notice; you are removing the doctor from the poor people, and leaving them without a doctor?—The clergyman here will have to go out ten or twelve miles in the middle of the night, and why should not the doctor do the same?

7516. Suppose you change the state of the country, and open up Carna district and new roads, and made facilities of transmission more easy, and made the people richer, and gave them employment; I have no doubt if the people were comfortable you would not have the same necessity for medical aid as now?—That is so.

7517. Will not hunger and want bring on sickness and disease, and a want of proper clothing at night and in the day time, and the want of fuel, and does not the doctor be required in twenty cases where there is thieftown, where he would not be required if the people were comfortably off?—I have only given that as one remedy for reducing the rates. My principal idea would be to have them removed by the Local Government Board, or the Government, but I say also, that economy might be used by adding Bodin to Ballinskillick, and having one officer there.

Mr. James Gordon, J.P., sworn and examined.

Mr James
Gordon.

Mr. Robinson.—You are vice-chairman of the Board?—Yes.

7518. Have you had the clerk's estimate of the rates before you?—Yes.

7519. Do you concur with him as to the difficulty of levying a 4s. rate in this union?—I opposed this strongly.

7520. Do you think under ordinary circumstances there would be difficulty in collecting it?—I don't think it would be possible to collect it.

7521. Do you mean without hardship?—No, any way.

7522. Does not the landlord pay the greater portion?—I don't think they are able to pay it.

7523. Is not the landlord?—Yes.

7524. You don't think they would be able to pay?—No, I don't think they will under the present circumstances.

7525. Have you any suggestion to make as to how this great debt is to be wiped off?—I don't see how it could be wiped off by the rates—not more than 20 per cent. of the occupying people are rated.

7526. You advocated Government assistance?—Strongly.

7527. Do you think the clerk's estimate for the current year is a fair one?—He has prepared his estimate from the estimate of previous years. I believe Mr. Bourke is always correct in his estimates, but I did not see any estimate for the ordinary rating. The estimate held before you contemplated the levying of a rate to cover the total expenditure.

7528. Including the ordinary expenditure?—I don't remember that.

7529. This estimate was held before the guardians, and £8,000 was for the debt, so that the total estimate was held before you for £8,000 and you think it is a fair estimate?—Yes.

7530. Do you know of any economy that could be effected in the ordinary expenses of the union which would materially lighten the rates?—I don't remember anything.

7531. Could you reduce your out-door relief?—I think there might be something done in that way, a little.

7532. Would you be in favour of the suggestion that was thrown out by the clerk, that the expenses under the Medical Charities Act might be curtailed in some degree?—I think with regard to the Medical Charities Act, that something might be given in that way by the Government.

7533. You think it is impossible to reduce the number of medical officers without running the risk of hardship to the sick poor?—I think if you consider, supposing you do away with one medical officer or two, that is as far as you can go, and I was thinking that perhaps portion of the rates that go to that would not be very considerable, considering that half is paid by the Government already.

7534. That it would not be a great saving, and that it would create a great void in these districts?—And lead to great inconvenience to the poor.

7535. Then you think that economy would be commensurate with the advantage?—No, I don't think it would be.

7536. Have you any suggestions to make as to the embarrassed position of the union now?—The union is in a very bad way, no doubt about that.

7537. How do you propose to get out of it?—There are only two ways. One for the Government to come to the aid of the district by a State grant, or whatever it is, or a loan extended over a great many years.

7538. Mr. Robinson.—You say that you can not raise more than 4s. rates?—Certainly not.

CARNEGIE. 7538. And a four shilling rate is necessary to carry on the ordinary expenditure of the union?—Yes.
Mr. James Gibson. 7539. How can the union be carried on if a 4s. rate is necessary, and if it cannot be levied?—If the present liabilities are met by the Government, I think if the rate already hanging over us was taken off, then in ordinary times we would be able to carry on.

7540. Then you would be able to pay a 4s. rate?—No, I don't say that.
 7541. Then Mr. Burke says that a 4s. rate is necessary to meet the ordinary expenditure of the union?—I do not think that a 4s. rate was necessary.
 7542. Not an average rate of 4s. 1.—From 2s. 6d. to 4s.

Mr. J. Burke, Clerk of Union, re-called.

Mr. J. Burke. 7543. Mr. Redington.—Did you say that an average rate of 4s. was necessary to meet the ordinary expense of the union?—Not altogether the ordinary expense. There is some of the exceptional relief included in that.
 7544. How much will a 4s. rate produce?—There will be about £500 to meet extraordinary relief.
 7545. What would be the relief in ordinary years?—Nearly 4s. in the pound.

7546. All round?—Yes. When you go to give an opinion about rates, consider that we are paying about 2s. 6d. county cess, exclusive of other things.
 7547. What would be the poundage that would be necessary to meet the ordinary expense of the year?—About £3,500 in an ordinary year.
 7548. That is nearly a 4s. rate?—Yes.

Mr. J. Gibson, J.P., re-called.

Mr. J. Gibson, J.P. 7549. Mr. Redington.—You say they could not pay a 4s. rate?—No.
 7549a. What is your division?—Bellinakillick.
 7550. The rates there are not very high?—No, and they have always paid.
 7551. Take Clifden division—they have paid a 4s. rate in every year?—Yes, they paid.
 7552. Take Knockley division—they paid 3s. 8d., 5s. 1d., 4s., 4s. 2d., and 3s. 11d.?—Yes.
 7553. But have they been collected?—I am not aware that those divisions are always collected.
 7554. You think they have not been collected?—I ask you whether these high rated divisions have been collected. In Rosville they have been paying 3s. 10d., 5s. 3d., 4s., 4s. 6d., 3s. 7d.—these are all high rates?—V high—too high.
 7555. But they paid them?—I believe most of them were paid, but there is a large rate outstanding.
 7556. Did they involve any hardship?—They did, the greatest possible hardship.
 7557. But what they have paid in the past cannot they pay now?—No.
 7558. Is the county cess higher?—No; it is lower.
 7559. Then they could pay as high a poor rate?—I think what they think is that the county cess is in accordance with the circumstances and the time, and the circumstances of the country.
 7560. And the other is not?—It is out of proportion.
 7560a. Mr. Robinson.—You say a great portion is paid by the landlord?—Yes.
 7561. And they are poorer than they were seven or eight years ago?—Yes.

7562. And that might explain the difficulty of collecting the rate?—Partly.
 7562a. Mr. Redington.—Is not it a fact that the valuation in Connemara is considerably below the rest, and therefore a rate of 4s. would be much lighter on the landlord than a rate of 4s. in other parts of the country would be?—Yes; that is true enough, but you must know that they have a poorer population to sustain on a valuation of £15,000.
 7563. Supposing 4s. would maintain the population, would the 4s. be too much for them to pay?—That is too much.
 7564. How did they pay it for the last five years?—The times were better.
 7565. Things are growing worse?—Considerably worse. I know this for a fact that it was easier for a man to get a £10 note four years ago than it is to get £1 now.
 7566. Is not it a fact that the county cess was higher in Bellinakillick four years ago than it is now?—Yes; it is payable now, and it is 3s. 6d. now. The seed rate has given us great trouble.
 7567. But you have not paid it?—No; but I have to complain that we had to pay outstanding seed rate, and in the last estimate admitted by the Guardians, they had regard to the outstanding seed rate, and they put it into the estimate, and has been claimed against us. They want to make up the deficiency of the amount paid by us to the Board of Works.
 7567a. Mr. Burke.—The rental all along the sea shore is generally lower than the valuation?
 Mr. Redington.—I did not specify the sea shore

The Rev. Mr. Flannery sworn.

Rev. Mr. Flannery. 7568. Mr. Robinson.—As to the evidence of Mr. Burke about the doctor of Carna, what have you to say?—My view is that the doctor should reside in the district of Carna, about the most convenient place for the people, for there are 4,000 people there, and that would be central; and it is quite impossible to have any doctor to attend the parish of Carna, and Roundstone, which comprise two districts at present having two medical officers.
 7569. At present he resides at Carna, and you think it proper he should reside in Carna?—Yes; he is generally going through the people, and one visit should not satisfy a conscientious doctor.
 7569a. Mr. Redington.—Would it suit if he called twice a week at Carna?—No; the people are often weather-bound. I believe myself that the seed rate is uncollectable. Redington, in the first place, impoverished the country, and left a class of sick people

in the country, and owing to the general depression that prevails, the rate is quite uncollectable now.
 7570. Mr. Robinson.—Do you concur with Mr. Burke as to the large amount uncollectable?—I think, generally speaking, the rates are not collectable.
 7571. Mr. Redington.—Could they collect a 4s. rate in your parish?—In my parish it is the landlord who pays the rate, and there are some of the landlords who could not pay it. There is one landlord there whose property is in chancery and very little of the rent in the district going to him.
 7572. Did not they pay a 4s. 7d. rate in Skerrane last year?—Yes.
 7573. Was that a great hardship on them?—Yes, I think it was a very great hardship on some of the landlords.
 7574. Do you think they are worse able to pay now than in 1871?—Yes, it was easier to pay in 71

and '89 a £90 rent, then it is now to pay £10, because if you sold a horse then you would get £90 for him and now you would only get £10 or £12. You would have to sell a horse and a cow now to get the price of the horse before.

7574a. But the rents are lower now?—The general reduction that was made was not so much.

7575. Is the rent above the valuation?—Yes, as a rule the rents are considerably above the valuation.

7576. Mr. Robinson.—As a matter of fact the rents are nearly all paid, in your district, by the landlord?—Yes.

7577. And the landlords have all the rents reduced and they are less able to pay?—Yes.

CHURCH.
Rev. Mr.
Hazzard.

Mr. William Gorman, P.L.C., sworn.

7578. Mr. Robinson.—You wish to state something in reference to yesterday's evidence?—Yes. In my absence yesterday I heard that Mr. King said I gave out-door relief to my servant.

7578a. No; he said your servant received out-door relief?—Well, I beg to say that I had no servant getting out-door relief.

Mr. C. King.—I did not say that. Mr. Gorman had an opportunity of cross-examining me.

Mr. Gorman.—I was not here. It was stated that Lydon got relief. It was proved here at a sworn inquiry that Lydon was not in my employment at the time that relief was going on.

Mr. William
Gorman,
P.L.C.

Mr. C. King, P.L.C., recalled.

7579. Mr. Robinson.—What did you say about this case?—I might have stated that he was in his service,

but I said that William Lydon was in his employment when his son got this relief.

Mr. C. King.

Mr. W. Gorman, P.L.C., recalled.

7582. Mr. Robinson.—Is that a fact?—His father was working occasionally with him at the time.

7583. At the time he got relief?—Yes.

7584. What wages were you paying the father?—One shilling and sixpence a day.

7585. Then Mr. King's statement is correct?—Well, that was the way I heard it.

Mr. W.
Gorman, P.L.C.

Joseph Gorman sworn.

7586. Mr. Robinson.—You are contractor for the workhouse supplies?—Yes.

7587. Were you ever contractor for out-door relief?—Yes.

7588. What provisions were named in your contract?—Meal.

7589. Did you enter into a bond?—No, sir.

7590. Were there any other contractors named with you?—Yes; I was the sole contractor for the first fortnight, and after the first fortnight we got into Co.

7591. How is that?—Half a dozen was joined.

7592. Was the company recognized by the guardians?—Yes.

7593. Who were your Co.?—Con. McDonagh, Pat O'Hara.

7594. Anybody else?—Miss Molloy, Miss Kate Lydon.

7595. Is she any relative of the relieving officer?—She is a relation.

7596. What relation?—Cousin.

7597. Does she live in his house?—No.

7598. Anybody else?—John Darcy, John P. Lydon.

7599. Is that the relieving officer?—No.

7600. Is he any relation?—He may be a distant relation.

7601. There were other people as well?—Some of these would not supply them, and I ran out of meal myself, and I told them to go anywhere they liked with their tickets.

7602. Were these the only tickets recognized by the guardians?—Yes.

7603. When these other people honoured the tickets did you pay them?—They are not yet paid.

7604. Are all paid yet?—No.

7605. How much is due to you?—I could not say the amount—about £500.

7606. Would it be any inconvenience to you to wait until the new rate is struck?—I have been waiting for nine months, and £200 is due for seed.

7607. Due to you?—Yes, for supplying potatoes and oats.

7607a. Mr. Robinson.—Do you know the relieving officer's mother?—Yes.

7608. Has she a shop?—Yes.

7609. Why did you not give her name before as a contractor?—At the time some of these had no meal to supply.

7609a. She was one of the Co.?—No, she supplied some of the staff.

7609b. Mr. Robinson.—Did these people present their tickets on no particular day?—On one particular day.

7610. You were authorized to supply any food they liked?—Yes.

7611. What food did they generally ask for?—Meal and flour.

7612. Any tobacco or tea?—Very slightly.

7613. Any whiskey?—No whiskey.

7614. Was there great poverty at the time they were being supplied?—Great poverty; there were no tickets outstanding very long, they were generally supplied within the day or the next day.

Joseph
Gorman

Mr. Burke recalled.

7614a. Mr. Robinson.—When you obtained the loan from the Board of Works for the seed supply, how was it Mr. Gorman was not paid?—They were all paid except Mr. Gorman, and we were short of money.

7615. Did you not get the full amount of the loan?—Yes.

7616. And it was applied to other purposes?—Yes, other purposes to keep the best feed foremost.

Mr. Burke.

Mr. Joseph Gordon recalled.

Witness
Mr. Joseph
Gordon.

7617. Mr. King, &c.—You gave Miss Malley's name as a contractor?—She supplied some of the goods.

7618. Did not you state she was a contractor?—I forget who were the contractors.

7619. Five others as well as yourself were contractors?—I could not say.

7620. You gave six names, is that correct?—I cannot say.

7621. Are you certain that these are correct?—I don't think Miss Malley is correct.

7622. You were contractor for the first fortnight?—Yes.

7623. What were you supposed to supply?—Most of them got meat.

7623a. What was your contract for?—Meat.

7624. Is it meat you supplied?—I supplied some meat and flour—an equivalent of these.

7625. What was the contract price?—I think 9d. or 9½d. a stone.

7626. Supposing a man had 4s. on his ticket, how much flour would you give as an equivalent?—would you give it at the rate of 9d. a stone?—No, not the flour.

7627. What do you charge per stone for the flour?—The price of the day whatever it was.

7628. You charged the price of the day whatever it was?—Yes.

7629. And then you gave him credit only for 9d. I gave him 4s. of value according to 9d. a stone.

7630. You did not supply any meat at all?—I did, a great deal.

7631. Do you know was all the meat you gave out good meat?—It was as good as I could get.

7632. Did you hear any complaints?—Yes; I heard a man complain, and the Local Government Board brought the inspector down, and he pronounced it good.

7633. Are you certain he pronounced it good?—Sure of it. Some of the guardians sent it as well as him. He sent a sample to Dublin. You eat some of the meat yourself?

7633a. Was it not a fact that two guardians, as well as myself, said that one sample was not fit for pigs?—There was nothing returned to me as bad by any of the people.

7634. Is it a fact that if they returned it the relieving officer would get them off the road?—It is not true.

7635. Were not you all leagued together?—Not at all.

7636. Is it a fact that there is a company got up in the town, and they all got displeased that you got this contract in hand?—I got it the first time, being the cheapest man, for a fortnight, and then I was satisfied to join the rest.

7637. Was it not so arranged then, and was there not a meeting got up in the town, and was it not arranged that everyone was to have share alike?—I did not attend that meeting.

7638. Did you agree to that?—I did.

7639. Did you carry out that instruction?—I will answer you no more questions.

7640. Give us the names of the parties you were supposed to give orders to as well as the other five contractors?—I told you the people were to get it wherever they liked.

7641. Did you send some of these orders to Mr. Lydon's mother?—Yes.

7642. She was one of the parties in the list in this compact?—They should get it somewhere.

7643. Was Mrs. Lydon in the compact?—No.

7644. Was his sister Mary another of them?—Yes.

7645. Was Stephen Murray another?—He refused to supply.

7646. Mr. Redington.—I thought you said Miss Kate Lydon?—Yes.

7647. Who is Mary Lydon?—She is a sister of the relieving officer.

7648. Was Mary one of those who joined with you?—Not in the commencement.

7649. And some of these parties refused to supply goods after taking the contract?—I know Mr. O'Hara refused the first week.

7650. Was Mary one of those who joined with you?—No.

7651. Mr. King.—Did you not send here some of your orders?—Yes. I am not certain of it.

7652. Is not it a fact that people were lying in the streets here for three days and three nights waiting until the contractor's meat had come home, and plenty of meat in the town?—I never heard it—they should get meat somewhere.

7653. Supposing the majority of the shopkeepers came up and stated this as a fact, would they be stating what is false?—I don't know whether they would or not.

7653a. You are not certain whether they were three days and three nights waiting for meat, until the supply came home?—I never heard it.

7654. And plenty of meat lying with other people in the town of Clifton?—It is not a fact.

7655. Do you know Pat Madden?—I don't know.

7656. Do you remember the 3rd July—what goods did you supply him with?—I cannot tell you; I supplied him with the value of his ticket whatever it was.

7657. I want to know what you charged for the Indian meal on the 1st July?—The contract price, whatever it was.

7658. Well, Pat Madden got for his 3s. ticket, five stone of Indian meal, two pounds sugar half pound soap, that is 7½d. deficiency—3s. 9d. being for the meal, two pounds sugar 6d., half a pound soap 1½d., so that is all he got for 3s. He went to Mr. Mullin and he went back to Gordon, and he refused to give him any more?—That is not true; I never heard a word about it. I always supplied the full value of the ticket.

7659. He represented this to James Mallon, the guardian of the district?—(No answer).

7659a. Mr. Redington.—Was it reported to the Local Government Board?

Mr. King, &c.—They let it be in obedience as far as I can see.

7660. Did you complain to the Board of Guardians?—Mr. King.—Yes.

7660a. Mr. Redington.—What did they do?

Mr. King.—What could they do. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and all, are related to Mr. Gordon.

Mr. Burke.—I did not hear this matter discussed at the Board.

7661. Mr. Redington.—Did the local guardians bring the matter before the Board?

Mr. Burke.—I am not aware of it.

7662. Mr. Robinson.—I cannot go into this particular point if the man had the ticket and ought to have got the full value of it at the time.

Mr. King.—There were hundreds of people lying about the lanes and alleys of Clifton waiting for meat while there was plenty of meat in the town.

Andrew Igdon, Relieving Officer, sworn.

7663. Mr. Robinson.—Mr. King says there were hundreds of people lying on the streets who could not get meat and there was plenty of meat in the town?—I signed several orders on that day. I think it was supplied all round the town.

7664. Mr. Robinson.—Were there hundreds lying about the alleys and lanes waiting for meat?—No.

7665. Were there fifty?—There were some people.

7666. How many?—I could not exactly say. I sent a fellow round to tell them they could get it in any shop they wished, and they came back and said they would not supply them.

7667. Who would not?—The shopkeepers; and I sent a telegram to the Local Government Board stating that the parties were refused by the shopkeepers in the town.

7668. About what date was that?—I am not exactly sure.

7669. Mr. Robinson (reading).—"The shopkeepers refused to supply the Relief Office; people in starving condition. Say what I am to do. 28th June."—Is that the telegram?—Yes.

Mr. C. King, *s.d.*—Name one who refused to supply them?—I sent that off.

7670. Was there meat in the town?—I don't think Mr. Gorham had any.

7670. Name one who refused to supply on your order?—I cannot recollect, but the people came back to me and stated that they would not be supplied. I think Tom Ward refused.

7671. You had a right to take down the names of the parties who refused to supply you?—Mr. King states there were orders sent to my mother. Those orders were sent to Mrs. Gaynor, and she had no stock at the time, and I think Major D'Arcy was in the office at the time when the people came back, and Mr. Bourke told me to send them wherever they wished, and I think it was the assistant who sent them round word to get the orders wherever they could, so that these orders were sent to the contractor, at the time, and she could not supply them there was such a rush.

7672. Who was the contractor?—Mrs. Gaynor.

7673. Was not that Michael Courtney one of the number?—He might be.

7674. Was it true when this man swore he was charged 1s. 10d., for Indian meat?—I don't know anything about it.

Mr. C. King, *s.d.*—I have in addition to the list I gave in yesterday another list, and I could send in twenty times as many more people who got refused and who should not have got it.

Major D'Arcy sworn.

7675. Mr. Robinson.—What do you wish to say about the financial state of the union?—Sometime ago the Guardians were about sending up to the secretary a statement about the union, and they came to the resolution to ask me to draw up a report on the general state of the union—and I did so, and in going through that I found that if it had not been for the seed rate, and what occurred about it, the union would have been in a very fair position. The three instalments levied for the working of the union was taken and handed over for the seed rate, and that has planted the union in a difficulty. There were over £3,000 taken, and if it had not been for that the working of the union was going on very favourably, and I found that the rate for the mere working of the union would have been very favourable to the union, and was lower than any we had had.

7676. Mr. Robinson.—What would the rate have been for the ordinary working of the union?—It was considerably lower. I may add, that without the seed rate it would have been considerably lower than any rate we had before.

Mr. J. Burke, Clerk of the Union.—It would have been something lower than last year.

Examination of Major D'Arcy continued.

7677. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think a four shilling rate could be levied without difficulty?—I think it might be levied with difficulty, and what I proposed in that year was that we should be allowed to raise the money. I am always against this chancery system. To raise the money to pay off the debt would only come to a penny or three half pence in the pound for twenty years, and I prefer this, and if they are to be kept on in this way suffering from every blast that comes what is to become of the country? I put before them what ought to be done, and how the country was to be improved by the railway, and the opening up of the fisheries, and if they were properly developed, the country was well able to support itself, and be in a very excellent condition. I said openly that the proprietors did not seem to me to take the interest they ought in the country, or to have come in here or looked after these things. They might have assisted us in that. They don't appear to have attended here to give any information. The country is now supposed to be in the hands of three

or four millionaires. We have Mr. Henry, Mr. Beveridge, and Mr. Blake, all said to be millionaires. The whole country is in their hands, and I am surprised they should have their tenants living on the country while they are paying by money to pay rents, and I think if we see feeding the tenants that that is very detrimental to the country.

7678. Mr. Robinson.—But if the landlords are paying high rates they are feeding the tenants themselves?—Yes, and I am surprised they don't come in and look after it. I know the people in the town have to pay all the rate.

7679. Mr. Robinson.—Have not they paid a 4s. rate for the last three or four years?—They are able to pay.

7680. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think Mr. Berridge is able to pay more than 4s. in the pound?—Yes, and I think if Mr. Mitchell Henry came here I would be ashamed to be in the position of having the last going round for my tenants. I would be for a loan at a long date to pay off the debt.

7681. Mr. Robinson.—But the interest on the loan, added to the ordinary expense, is more than 4s. You could not carry on the union with less?—I think you could if the seed is included in the 4s.

7682. No; Mr. Burke said nearly 4s. would be required for the ordinary expenses in the union?—No, I think that included the seed rate.

7683. What is the total rate required for this year? Mr. Burke (Clerk of Union).—About 4s.

7684. Mr. Robinson.—What is the total rate, including all debts?

Mr. J. Burke (Clerk of Union).—The liabilities are over £6,000.

7685. Mr. Robinson.—How much would that be in the pound?

Mr. Burke (Clerk of Union).—About 12s. 6d.

Mr. Robinson.—No, it would be about 3s.

Mr. Burke (Clerk of Union).—Yes, it would be about 7s.

Major D'Arcy's examination resumed.

7686. Mr. Robinson.—You see that the ordinary expenses involve a rate of over 4s. in the pound, and that the estimate for wiping off the debts and everything is about 7s. in the pound?—Yes.

7686. And therefore it follows that in ordinary

Y

GAWSON.
Major D'Arcy.

years, if Mr. Burke's estimate is a fair one, that you would always require 4s. in the pound to maintain the union?—I don't think you would. The highest ordinary rate was 4s., and more of them was only 1s. 11d.

1687. Because they choose to curtail the clerk's rate?—That would be paying off the whole.

1688. The average rate was nearly 4s. 1.—Not so much.

Mr. J. Burke (Clerk of Union).—It would be about 3s. 10d. for the average.

Mr. Redington.—There are only four divisions under 3s.

Rev. Mr. Flannery.—The occupiers having to pay the rate, they are allowed it when they go to pay their rents, but you would keep the union floating if the tenant is ejected. These rates are made at a depressed

time of the year. There are tenants rated under 2d and over 2d. How can you, in the first instance, get the rate. It is only where the tenant is rated over 2d that he is liable to pay the rate, and how will you meet the case if you propose to borrow, for the landlord will not pay, and you cannot compel him.

Major D'Arcy.—No, you cannot compel him.—It is the person rated you must compel; but how does borrowing to pay off this rate affect that. It is the person who must first go to.

Mr. C. King.—Do you think it would be fair for us who are paying our rates to be paying interest on a loan to pay off a debt when the landlords are not paying their rates.

Major D'Arcy.—You have power to make them pay.

Mr. Michael Lydon, Rate Collector, swears.

Mr. Michael Lydon.

1688a. Mr. Redington.—Were you asked to send in a return of arrears in your district?—Yes.

1688b. Have you got your list of arrears?—Yes.

1688c. Have you nothing to show the names of the persons?—No, except my warrants. My books will show them.

Mr. James Monaghan, Rate Collector, swears.

Mr. James Monaghan.

1689 Mr. Robinson.—What is the total amount of your last warrant?—There is only £78 due in my district.

1690. Who has not paid in Buncur?—why has that not been collected?—As a general rule I generally work as well as I can get it from any man who is able to pay. Many a man has no means of paying because he cannot sell his goods, and as a general rule when I am getting on pretty well with the rate I do not like to take any proceedings.

1691. Did you take any proceeding against this man in Buncur?—No.

1692. John King owes 21 14s. 6d.?—He is a very poor man, and he did his best each time to pay.

1693. Will you be able to get that?—I will. There is scarcely one there that is not worth the money, but if they have a few cows and can get nothing for them what can he do?

1694. Walter Conry, £2 5s. 6d.?—I understand Mr. Berridge is to pay that, but there is some misunderstanding about it. It was not him had it in reality but another man.

1695. What proceeding did you take?—None; only it was in arrears, and I think Pat King is the present occupier.

1696. Why don't you take proceedings against whoever is responsible when the other man is down?—I did not know.

1697. You should have taken the name of the man on the rate-book?—I had nothing to do with it.

1698. Were there cattle on the land?—Yes.

1699. Why didn't you distrain?—Any of those that have not paid when we get the new books out, it is then we go at first.

1700. Can all these items be collected?—Yes; there is hardly one who is not worth the money.

1701. In Derrykeena there is only a few shillings due except by Margaret Walsh and Paddy Gavan. Did you take any steps?—No further than to notice them. Gavan was well able to pay except there was a dispute about part of the holding.

1702. In Illium, Martin Joyce owes £4 6s. 8d.?—He is very poor; he has only £3 valuation. I believe he had no money.

1703. Did you go upon his land?—It is not often I go upon it.

1704. Is that for two years now?—I think it is two years. Some of these people have partners in the land, and when they want come to the front the man who is down is responsible.

1705. There are other men who owe six years

between them?—Matt Kenny was not off his bed for years.

1706. Who does his work for him?—He has a brother-in-law.

1707. Hadn't he cattle?—He has a few head, but when he was as bad as that I knew he had no money, but I believe he is worth it.

1708. Martin Molloy—hasn't he been able to pay?—He is about the poorest man on the book.

1709. What about the two Joynes of Derryvold?—They always paid until this time, but they are not up to the valuation of 2d. They are some sort of head-holders, and they are pretty honest.

1710. Couldn't you go upon the land?—They are under 2d valuation.

1711. Why don't you proceed against the headholder—who is rated?—Mr. Berridge is the headholder. He is rated. I believe they have a lease of that place.

1712. And they are rated?—Yes, but according to my book they are not up to the valuation.

1713. What about John King?—He always paid up to the present. He has several times explained that he could not have a shilling up to a certain day.

1714. Martin Nall?—He is very poor, too.

1715. John Hart?—He was evicted. He is only a caretaker.

1716. Whose land is this?—Mr. Berridge's.

1717. There is £6 due by Mr. Mooney?—I wrote to him. The hotel is unoccupied for a good bit.

1718. Is this for the hotel?—Yes, for the hotel and lodge.

1719. Did you write and ask him for it?—Yes, and I explained it as well as I could. I wrote to the owner.

1720. Will you recover that?—Certainly.

1721. R. J. Connolly—£3 3s. 6d.—why has he not paid?—He paid me about £10, and he said some of these people had paid a halfpenny of rent, and he said he would wait to see what they would do.

1722. Why can't you take proceedings against him, is he the solicitor?—Yes.

1723. In Roundstone there is £11 18s. paid by Thos. H. Ogle?—Mr. Connolly is solicitor to the board.

1724. Here is a rate due for all this time and the largest defaulter is the solicitor to the board of guardians—is he able to pay?—Yes.

1725. What about Mr. Ogle's not paying?—I did my best to get it from him. He always paid until this year, and I wrote several times to the receiver and spoke to him.

7726. Who is the receiver?—Mr. Joseph McDonnell of Letterfrack.

7727. Did you ever ask the guardians to take proceedings against Mr. Ogilvie?—I thought almost every day I would get it.

7728. Mr. Refington.—You have been thinking that for twelve months?—Well, I thought he would pay.

7729. Mr. Robinson.—Is Mr. McDonnell the receiver a poor-law guardian?—Yes.

7730. Were you afraid to take proceedings against him because of that?—No, I thought he would pay, for he always paid, and I thought he would pay this time too.

7731. Dr. Gorham owes £5 7s 1d.—He is not in possession of that place.

7732. Is he liable for it?—I don't think he is altogether; I think it was about January he was evicted.

7733. Was it for non-payment of rent?—I believe it was Mr. Meeney evicted him, and in February he was put back as caretaker, and judging from the improvements he made on it he thought he was not liable.

7734. Mr. C. King, F.R.C.—Are you sure he was evicted?—I was there when the house was cleared out, and I think that was eviction.

7735. Mr. Robinson.—Did you get any advice on the point whether he was liable or not?—I did not.

7736. Then you should have obtained advice whether he was liable?—I brought the case before the board—I brought my books before the board.

7737. There was a large sum due there?—It is not very large.

7737. He is an officer of the union?—Yes.

7738. Isn't he medical officer of the workhouse?—Yes.

7739. Elson Keady—what about him?—He has a house and it is under the valuation; the landlord would not pay for him, and he thinks another should pay for him. He is not up to the valuation in any case. He says he thinks he is not liable, but I must serve him with a thirty days notice.

7740. Is there any of these rates irrecoverable?—No.

7741. Have you taken out the irrecoverable rate?—Yes.

7742. £18 is a very small sum due as compared with the other collectors?—It is not much.

Mr. Michael Lydon, Rate Collector, recalled.

7743. Mr. Refington.—You have got your books now—were you asked to send in a return of the rates due?—Yes.

7744. Richard Bridge—why hasn't he paid?—That is a place in dispute between him and undertenants. It is a property he got lately—it was formerly in possession of Mr. Hart. Those tenants were so mixed up they did not know who was to pay.

7745. There is £29 due by Mr. Bridge?—Yes.

7746. What steps did you take there?—I went and demanded the rates, and I went to the agent in Roundstone and he said he would not pay it, that those people were not paying him and were not fixed tenants at all.

7747. Did you bring the case before the board?—Yes.

7748. What instructions did you get?—The instructions I got, in fact there was no final instructions given.

7749. You could have taken proceedings against Mr. Bridge?—I don't know, for they do not appear to acknowledge him as landlord at all at this time.

7750. When there is £29 due by Mr. Bridge again?—There is some dispute there again.

7751. £45 is also due by him—that is about £148 due by him?—He said they were not paying him any rent and he said he would not pay the rates. I went to the place and I could not find anything on it.

7752. Mr. Robinson.—Mr. Bridge is liable?—I was speaking to Mr. Robinson the last day and he gave me £45 on account.

7753a. What you did was to ask for it?—I made several applications.

7753. Patrick Curvey—what about him?—He is a disputed party; I served him with notice and I summoned him to the court, and I was told it was no use.

7754. Why?—I had nothing to get.

7755. Did you get a demand?—I am not sure, I did not execute it because there was nothing to get.

7756. Daniel Connolly?—That was a case I brought before the court and those people disputed something, and I was dismissed in that case.

7757. Why?—Because they said the landlord had a right to pay.

7758. Did you take proceedings against the landlord?—Well, no; Mr. Gorham is here.

7758a. Are those tenants under £1?—No.

Mr. Burke.—Those parties were valued originally,

one at £2 and the other at £3 something, and they were brought into one two years ago. This party was used for the whole, and that was the ground on which it was decreased—it was one holding, but they got the valuation divided.

7758b. Mr. Robinson.—About Innishaffin—who has paid there?—The only party who paid there was Mr. Allen.

7759. What rates are due?—A great number of years, and they are not inclined to pay at all.

7760. Did you try to get in there?—Yes, but I was afraid to get in; they are very outlandish.

7761. Did you ever ask for police protection?—No.

7762. Don't you think you should endeavour to go in and make them pay?—I was in several times; they owe me this amount, and they are worth very little.

7763. Then there are exceptional difficulties there?—Yes.

7764. In Letterfrack, Anne Joyce has not paid?—She has promised to pay, and I think she will.

7765. Michael McDonnell?—I had him summoned to the court, and he is valued at £4, and there the magistrates decided against me, and I could not recover.

The landlord is liable. I told other parties I would sue them.

7766. They are all small amounts that are due?—Yes.

7767. What about the gas works?—That is the place where the gas works were; it is shut up now.

7768. It is irrecoverable?—Yes.

7769. Pat Marion?—I think there was some allowance made to him, because the place was unoccupied, I think, for some time; it was shut up.

7770. Pat O'Hara?—That was unoccupied for some time.

7771. Pat McDonagh, of Innishaffin?—I got a boat and went there, and he was on the eve of leaving for America. He said off in a night; and I went to Mr. Bridge, and he said those people did not recognise him as landlord yet, but he will pay.

7772. W. H. Shaw?—That is an unoccupied store.

7773. Martin Lydon?—That is unoccupied also.

7774. T. Mullarky?—That is unoccupied also.

7775. P. Flaherty?—That is also unoccupied.

7776. In Schern, Michael Mallon—why has he not paid?—That has been paid since.

7777. Pat Dean?—I summoned him to the court,

CLERK.
—
Mr. James
Morgan.

Mr. Michael
Lydon.

Guinea.
Mr. Michael
Lydon.

and after coming down he was very sick; he is worthless.

7779. Stephen Toole?—He borrowed time.

7780. John Toole; why do you give him so much time?—He was only valued at £4, and I lost money through other men who were valued at £4.

7781. A. J. Morris?—He is the principal man there now.

7782. Why hasn't he paid?—I took proceedings against him before and brought him before the Court, and I got a decree for £30 odd, and the only beast he had in his possession was a cow, and I seized that cow,

and kept it for a fortnight or three weeks, and I made very little by it. I got a little turf from him. He is living in a small place now with some friend, and I cannot proceed against him. I made application here for power to do so.

Mr. Burke.—The Board are always willing to give power to proceed.

7783. Why haven't you collected from Pat Keene?—I have taken out a decree for the last two years against him.

7784. Pat Lydon?—That is paid; they are under £4.

Mr. Martin Coyne, Rate Collector, *newn.*

Martin Coyne.

7785. Mr. Robinson.—You are one of the collectors?—Yes.

7786. There is £99 1s. 7d. due by Mrs Blake?—Yes.

7787. What steps have you taken for the recovery of that?—She has paid what she is able, and she is very willing to pay by instalments, and she expects to receive the rent on the 18th of this month, and to pay another instalment then.

7788. And how much has she paid of the £99?—I have not it made out.

7789. Why shouldn't she pay the whole of it?—She is not able.

7790. Hasn't she a hotel?—Yes; but this was not a good year for her.

Major Dwyer.—He has brought that case before the Board, and we have considered it. There were peculiar circumstances connected with that property. Young Blake came in for the property, and they are paying everything trying to clear it off.

7791. Mr. Robinson.—How much of the £99 has been paid off?—None of that has been paid off.

7792. I thought you said she has paid some of it?—Yes, she has paid nearly £200 more of it.

7793. Is the £99 the current rate?—The rate and arrears.

7794. Have you applied for it lately?—I have.

7795. When did she make the last payment?—About three weeks ago £50, and £5 more since.

7796. There is still £99 due?—Yes.

7797. How long do you intend to leave that due?—She made up £50 more.

7798. There is no reason why the owner of a large property should not pay £99?—The times are bad, and the poor people are not able to pay their rent.

7799. Who is the agent?—Mr. Robinson.

7800. Did you apply to him for it?—No, sir; she pays it herself.

7801. If there is an agent receiving the rents he must have money to pay?—It is himself that pays it always.

7802. Owen Heaney?—That is a very poor man, and the only thing he had to pay the rent was a sick of hay, and he sold it to pay the rent.

7803. Aren't you aware that the rates should be paid before the rent?—I was not aware that anything could go before the rent.

7804. Is he a tenant of Mitchell Henry's?—No, of Mrs. Blake.

7805. Has he no car?—He is a very poor man.

7806. Is he liable himself for the rate—what is his valuation?—About £3 10s.

7807. Has he any other holding?—Yes.

7808. Then he is valued over £4?—Yes, between the rent and the house it is over £4.

7809. What did Mrs. Blake owe this time twelve months, when you got the warrant?—I have not the account here now. It was over £100.

7810. What did she owe when you got your warrant this time twelve months?

Mr. J. Burke.—£147 was brought into the new rate.

7811. Mr. Robinson.—You say she has done her best to pay?—Yes.

7812. How much did she owe in your warrant, and how much has she paid since?—I think it was about £277 between rate and arrears.

7813. Do you swear to that?—Yes.

7814. And she has paid about £177 of that?—She has.

7815. Look at the Claggan driveway, Mr. Robinson owes £24 11s. 6d., what steps have you taken to recover that?—I have furnished the receiver myself personally with an account of it, but he never answered one of my letters.

7816. Did you bring the case before the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

7817. What steps were you authorized to take?—None, except to furnish him with an account.

7818. Did they make any application to the Local Government Board for leave to proceed.

Mr. Burke.—No, sir. There was a statement by the collector that the place was not let, and the receiver objected on the ground that the house was waste.

7819. Mr. Robinson.—Isn't there land also?

Mr. Burke.—Yes, but it was going to waste. He got nothing out of it, and he objects to pay until he gets something out of it.

7820. Mr. Robinson.—How long is it waste?

Mr. Coyne.—It is waste three years now.

7821. Mr. Robinson.—How long are you collector?—Time is the third year. They only grow it in common, and I have gone there several times and got nothing on it.

7822. Mr. Robinson.—Can you not proceed against the landlord?—I don't know.

7823. Who is the owner?—Captain Acheson, who is away in England.

7824. Is there a receiver on the property?—Mr. Robinson of Galway is the receiver.

7825. Could you not take proceedings against the receiver?—I took no proceedings more than furnishing him with the account, and he never answered the letter.

7826. Nos. 73 and 74, therein £3 due by cash?—They are under the £4 value.

7827. Then that is due by the landlord?—Yes.

7828. It is in the same landlord?—Yes.

7829. No. 75 owes £4 6s. 8d., that is the same?—There is no person living there.

7830. What is done with the land?—It is waste.

7831. Did you mention these facts to the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

7832. Did they take no steps?—I have not been instructed to take any steps.

Mr. Burke.—They directed him to apply to the receiver.

7833. Mr. Robinson.—Why don't you take proceedings in the superior courts.

Mr. Coyne.—I was not instructed to do so.

7834. Mr. Robinson.—You should apply for power, and then go and sell him out if he does not pay?

Mr. Coyne.—I will do so.

7835. Mr. Robinson.—No, 123 owes £3 11s. 1d.—That is an evicted tenant, but it is only 5s. 11d. is due. I made a mistake.

7836. In Cusackery there is only 3s. 11d. due—who

given that I—I think it is Mr. Doherty, the solicitor, in Dublin.

7837. Has he not given you any answer?—He said he would meet me, and I went there and he was not there. He paid a good deal more before.

7838. Captain Acheson and Mrs. Blake are the people who owe the largest amount, and I think in Captain Acheson's case you have not taken the steps you ought to—I have taken no steps except what I have told you, so far.

Mr. Burke.—Martin Lydon, the collector, is not

here, but there was a message that he was not well. I sent him word to send in a return.

Mr. Redington.—There is £126 due in the Knockboy division, and it is important to know who owes that.

Mr. Robinson.—There is a large amount due in Ardmore by Pat Walsh and others.

Mr. Burke.—That is for seed rate.

Mr. Redington.—The next question we have to consider is whether any one has any change to suggest by which the expenses could be lessened without any hardship to the poor.

Gwynne.
Martin Co. Sec.

Major D'Arcy recalled.

7839. Mr. Robinson.—You wish to make a statement on this subject?—I regret that Mr. Kendall is not here, for he took a good deal of interest in this, and it has been my impression that the amalgamation of unions would be a matter of great importance, not only here, but generally through Ireland.

7840. We are only dealing with this particular case—we are not authorised to go into the general question of the amalgamation of unions throughout Ireland?—Then, with regard to this union, I think if we had portion of the Oughtermond and portion of the Westport union (which has been a good deal enlarged by portion of the Newport) added to us, it would be an immense lessening of the expenditure here.

7841. You would have a larger area over which to assess your expenditures?—Yes; I know what the establishment charges are with regard to them, and I believe that if you amalgamate unions or extend the area, the more you lessen the expenses of the union, and I do believe it would have a great effect in lessening the establishment charges here. Now, with regard to the dispensary districts which come in here, I think the number of dispensaries which we have in this union is far in excess of the requisites. I speak this from knowledge of this district for a great number of years. I remember this district when there was only one dispensary from, I might say Carrig, from Spiddal almost to Letterfrack there was but one dispensary. At that time the dispensaries were paid for by the county, and half by subscription. I remember when there was only that one. My father who took a great deal of interest in this country dispensed medicine largely amongst his own people—then the population was larger than now, and I really believe the deaths were fewer.

7842. Now the landlords don't reside in the country and dispense medicine the way your father did, and you require more dispensaries?—No. I think if you had one doctor centred here, you would have an apothecary and a small establishment quite sufficient to dispense sulphur and salts through the county. The people generally, except an epidemic visit in, are exceedingly healthy, and don't require that medical supervision which seems to be required now by this number of medical doctors. I don't think this union is able to support all these, unless something was done as regards a general rate over Ireland to support them.

7843. How many dispensary districts would you abolish?—I think two would be sufficient.

7844. Where would they be?—At Clifden, Roundstone, and Carrig. I think to have a doctor on the island of Boffin is an expense, seeing that we cannot get any rates from the island. They don't pay anything; they have the anns from the Atlantic, the waves washing over them keep them all clean and all right, and I don't think they want a doctor. I know they get on well without one.

7845. Did they get on well without a dispensary?—I know the island since I was a boy, and there was no doctor in those days, and never heard of such a thing. I think amalgamation would considerably lessen the rates, if we had a considerable portion of Oughtermond added to this and portion of Westport.

7846. Having regard to the fact, that Westport could spare a division or two, their union having being largely added to?—Yes.

7847. And there are very few people in these districts which adjoin Clifden?—Yes.

7848. And there would not be much difficulty in administering relief to them?—No; and I think the guardians about there could look after their interests in every way.

7849. Mr. Robinson.—Would you annex the whole of Oughtermond to this?—Well, no; I think I would not amalgamate it all. I would make a distinction as to the parts near Galway.

7850. Would you annex the islands of Gortanna?—Yes.

7851. Mr. Robinson.—Would you add Carrig to this?—Yes.

7852. Oughtermond you could easily put on here?—Yes; and it would add very much to us, and when we have a railway we would have the guardians here in half an hour.

7853. You think a railway would facilitate it greatly?—Yes; a railway would be the saving of this district undoubtedly—if we have a railway here, we will have this an independent, flourishing district.

7854. I think the valuation of the Oughtermond Union is £15,000—suppose you had an increased valuation of £10,000 added to this union, that would cause a reduction in your rates?—Yes; but would be the outside rate we would have here if that was added to us, and we might hope to lower it.

7855. Have you ever consulted with any of the guardians on this subject?—Yes; I was most anxious about this, and I took an active part when I was chairman at Ballinacree in trying to have all the unions about amalgamated into Ballinacree.

7856. So you have considered this question?—I have considered it fully.

7857. Do you think it would be possible to carry out this amalgamation without involving undue hardship on the destitute poor?—Yes; I have no doubt about it.

7858. Do you think if means of removing paupers from place to place, such as a better class of ambulance was provided, might they be removed from a greater distance than at present?—I have no doubt of it.

7859. A light ambulance?—Yes; they are very comfortable and there would be no difficulty about it, and there are so seldom these extreme cases.

7860. Rev. Mr. Flannery.—As the workhouse at present exists, would you not try to teach the people some sort of industry that would pay?—would you not teach the old women to knit and sew, and get the men to do some business so as to prevent the necessity of buying loaves and such things?—I am glad you have asked me that question, for it is one I have given a good deal of attention to and I think, that not only with regard to the education and training up of the youth in business that would be of use to them hereafter, but I have always found that it was a great mistake to leave people in idleness in this house. I believe in every way it is. I would give them employment and try to encourage them to be industrious;

Cornac.
Major D'Arey.

and in schools instead of teaching them A B C and 1 2 3, I would give them practical instruction in the schools—a thing which is disgracefully neglected—which would enable them to live in after life, and maintain themselves, and relieve the union of charges. They are brought up in ignorance: they are brought up to point out where Timbuctoo is, but they are not taught a single thing that is of practical use to them in after life.

1860. Could you not get them to knit stockings and save that expense?—Of course they could, but I would employ them in every way.

1861. I am speaking of the old women?—Yes. I would have every one in the house, as far as they can be, employed. It is their duty to help through their labour to pay the expenses they cost the union. I want to see everyone employed while they are here, and I want to see the young brought up in a way that they would be able hereafter to support themselves. You go into the school and a child will be able to tell you about geography, but he will not be able to tell you the difference between a Swede and an Aberdeen turnip. The youth are brought up in that way.

1862. Mr. Robinson.—Is it not a fact that the majority of the inmates of the house now are people who come in for special treatment?—No; I think they are not.

Mr. Burke.—The great majority who come in are mostly all sick, and old, and infirm.

1863. Mr. Robinson.—Putting the children out of the question, what are the majority of the people in the house?

The Master.—They are all infirm now.

1864. Mr. Robinson.—How many are in the house?

The Master.—143.

1865. Mr. Robinson.—Do you find that there is great difficulty in getting a sufficient number to keep the house clean?

The Master.—We have no able-bodied, except one or two, and some of them have wooden legs, and blind, and I would not consider them able-bodied. Many of the healthy inmates are tramps.

1866. Mr. Robinson.—A great number of the children are not permanent inmates?

The Master.—Yes, they are all permanent now almost.

1867. Mr. Robinson.—Why is the industrial training neglected in the way Major D'Arey says.

The Master.—There is no way of training them.

1868. Mr. Robinson.—Can't you train them on the farm?—There is only three or four boys big enough.

Major D'Arey replied.

1869. Mr. Robinson.—Would you have any objection to pay a rate for industrial education?—No, for we did that in Ballinacree, and I think we would save

it ultimately. You see these children are all permanent, and I want them to be trained.

1870. Without industrial training your union requires a rate of four shillings to carry it on, and the cost of employing a person to train the four boys who are in the house would add to the taxes very much—do you think you would be justified in increasing the expenses for so small a number of boys?—How many children have you here?

1871. You cannot teach girls carpentering and such things?—But we have more boys than four.

Mr. Burke.—You have only very small boys.

Major D'Arey.—The remainder of the children are girls.

1872. Mr. Robinson.—Are they taught sewing and knitting?—I don't know.

1873. Is there anything else they can be taught?—There is a great many things they could be taught.

1874. Do you think in a small house like this there are not difficulties in the way of establishing a thorough and efficient system of industrial education?—Yes, and that is the reason I am for the amalgamation of unions. There is a great difficulty in this union at present, no doubt, but I look to the young for the improvement of the country, and I think it is a sad thing to see children brought up so that they must be always dependent on the world.

1875. Do you see any way in which it could be avoided in this union without amalgamation?—I certainly would train them, I don't think we are justified in bringing up children without enabling them to provide for themselves in after life.

1876. Do you think the guardians would be prepared to appoint a master tradesman for these four boys?—I would be an advocate of it, I have been thinking of it for years, for it is one of the things I take the greatest interest in—the training of children, and I look upon Ireland as deficient in that respect.

1877. The Rev. Mr. Flawerty.—You propose to disestablish some of the medical officers?—I declare I would.

1878. That is reasonable if it can be done, but you are undecided whether it should be in Carna or Roundstone?—I don't touch upon that.

1879. Is not Roundstone within reasonable distance of Clifden?—Yes. I would not say much about that, that is with regard to the peculiar district.

1880. I gave evidence this morning that it is absolutely necessary that a doctor should be in Carna, but I don't say he could not do Gouanna Island, but he could not do Roundstone and Carna?—I don't fix myself to the exact position of the man, but I think less would do.

Dr. Gorman sworn.

Dr. Gorman.

1881. Mr. Robinson.—As to this question of amalgamation—what is your dispensary now?—Clifden dispensary district.

1882. Hadn't you some other district?—I had Roundstone No. 1.

1883. What is the extent of Roundstone No. 1—how many divisions are in it?—Bancor, Elton, Derrycaul, Moyra, and Roundstone.

1884. What is the distance of the most remote from Clifden?—From Clifden, to about the halfway house is about eighteen miles, I think.

1885. Did you every discharge duty in any of the adjoining districts?—Yes.

1886. Did you ever do duty in Carna?—Yes, I acted for Dr. Kearney.

1887. When did you do that?—During the last twelve years.

1888. You are well acquainted with the circum-

stances of the people in this district as well as your own?—Yes.

1889. Did you attend many cases for him?—Yes.

1890. Did you ever attend any cases for him in Skeanive or Kilkerrin?—Yes, there is no particular cases I can draw to my mind; there was one time I was doing duty for him for three weeks.

1891. In the event of a person being sick in Kilkerrin would you treat them in their own house, or bring them to the house?—That would depend on the gravity of the case.

1892. But in the majority of cases you would treat them in their own houses?—Yes.

1893. Have they an aversion to being removed to the house?—Yes, a great aversion.

1894. But a much larger number are removed from Roundstone than from your district?—Yes, it is nearer.

7885. Do you think the people's chance of recovery was lessened by their not being removed?—No, they are generally very infirm cases; any cases that would demand the patient's attendance at hospital they went out.

7886. In cases where they require to be removed they are removed in the workhouse ambulance?—Yes.

7887. What kind of vehicle is it?—It was a rickshaw-like thing then, but it is a good one now, but the people object to come in this thing now, they would sooner have a cart than this.

7888. What distance is Killybeg from Clifton?—About twenty-six statute miles.

7889. Do you think if the most improved ambulance was provided that the people could be removed from about your district with less inconvenience to this than they are now removed from Killybeg?—Yes, but the fact of their coming in this workhouse ambulance narrows their poverty and they don't like it.

7890. Would you be very apprehensive of the condition of the sick in the event of the workhouse being thirty miles away instead of twenty-six miles?—It would scarcely make much difference.

7891. Would you have any grave fears for the state of the people in Scaroh if they had to be removed to Clifton?—I would; it would be very inconvenient to bring them in the first place, and it would all depend on the illness they suffer from; as a rule it is the infirm people who come in, people who are destitute, and it is the last resort.

7892. If a man can be removed twenty miles he can be removed twenty-five?—Yes, or thirty.

7893. The Rev. Mr. M'neary.—Have you attended many cases in Overageford division?—Yes, but I could not call all the cases to mind.

7894. Were these cases of red tickets or weekly cases you treated at the dispensary?—They were red tickets as a rule.

7905. Have you attended many of these?—Yes.

7906. Were you able to attend these cases and to do your own business?—Yes.

7907. Aren't the priests very lenient to the doctor doing duty in two or three cases, and it is only in the last extremity they send for the doctor?—That is true.

7908. Are there more red tickets issued for any district than any others?—Yes, for it is double the extent of district.

7909. If the suggested change as to the number of medical officers is carried out would you rather centre a doctor in Carna?—I don't wish to give an opinion about that.

7910. You know you have one from Roundstone to Carna, and then it is fourteen miles from Carna to Killybeg?—You are assuming there is one doctor for the two districts.

7911. Yes, that is your suggestion?—No, I never suggested that.

7912. As to the population there and the number of tickets and medical aid given?—I could give a fair idea of it.

7913. There is about once and a half as many red tickets issued for Roundstone No. 2 as for Roundstone No. 1?—That is simply because the population is nearly double.

7914. Within your own memory has the climate changed along the western coast of Connemara?—Most decidedly it has.

7915. Is it more dangerous to cross the bogs now than it was ten or twelve years ago?—I could not say that, it depends on the state of the weather.

7916. Mr. Robinson.—There are only six able-bodied workmen in the house-to-day?—There are 33 aged and infirm people; 11 boys and girls; 8 children; 11 infants; 24 sick; and 143 altogether, so that there is hardly a class that could do reproductive work.

Mr. J. Burke, Clerk, recalled.

7917. Mr. King, F.R.C.—State what notice of motion Brother Bernard brought on here sometime ago?—He proposed to dispense with a medical officer in Boffin; I don't know whether it was to dispense with him altogether or to add Boffin to Ballinacilly.

7918. Wasn't it proposed that Carna and Roundstone be amalgamated into one?—Yes.

7919. And that the station would be Clifton?—Yes.

7920. Clifton was to be another station?—Yes.

7921. And Roundstone added to it?—Yes.

7922. Solerna was to be added to Letterfrack and Boffin?—Yes.

7923. Mr. Robinson.—Was that resolution passed?—No.

7924. Have you considered this question of the amalgamation at all?—Yes.

7925. What is your view?—Any way that the valuation can be increased I am for, I cannot see how the union can go on with a valuation of £17,000. It will take a 4s. rate every year to do it, and if there is exceptional distress, as there is every third or fourth year, then you have a rate of 5s. or 6s.

7926. And when there is a fair year you can only levy a 4s. rate?—Yes.

7927. Your opinion is that the union cannot be carried on unless the area is extended?—No.

7928. Having considered the question of amalgamation, what divisions do you think could be added from Oughterard?—You might add the whole of Oughterard except along the sea coast.

7929. What about Cong and Cleburn?—They are too near Ballinacilly to bring them here. Along the sea coast Galway is their market town, and they generally trade back and forward to Galway, and I would therefore add those divisions along the sea coast to Galway and I would take all the interior into Clifton. I would take some of the divisions of the West-

port, where their population is almost all, and add Mr. J. Burke, Clerk, recalled.

7930. Have you made any calculation as to what the result of that would be?—No; I have no way of doing it.

7931. That would give you an increased valuation of over £30,000?—Yes, and the 4s. rate would then be only about 2s. or 2s. 6d.

7932. What divisions would you give to Galway?—The islands; I think Lettermore and Gorman might be added to Clifton, but I would let all the rest go to Galway. There is constant traffic between that place and Galway—boats going up and down every day; they sell everything they have in Galway, and it would be a hardship to bring them here.

7933. What about Oughterard?—All the rest might come here. We have a good road, good way, and good everything coming along, the same about Lecan and down to the Bridge of Erriff.

7934. Therefore you would have one union in Connemara instead of two?—Yes.

7935. Mr. Robinson.—Do any of the people from these divisions in Mayo ever come here?—They always resort to this place for fairs and markets.

7936. Is not Westport much more their chief town?—No doubt.

7937. And would not it be more inconvenient to them to cross the Killarney?—There is a good deal of Westport Union on the other side.

7938. What divisions?—There are some divisions.

7939. No; I think it is all Oughterard Union?—I mean the district from Ashlea on the right hand until you come to the Bridge of Erriff.

7940. That is beyond the Killarney altogether?—Yes.

7941. Mr. Robinson.—All you can say is that the union can barely carry on in the best of times, and in bad times it cannot carry on?—Yes.

7942. Are you convinced of that?—Yes.

Mr. James Mullin, R.D., sworn.

CHIEF CLERK.
Mr. James
Mullin.

7943. Mr. Robinson.—What evidence do you wish to give on the subject of amalgamation?—I would be against amalgamation in every sense of the word, because, in the first instance any amalgamation that could be given to Clifden would cause an increase in carrying any patient into Clifden from the nearest point, to my opinion, and I think I know the country as well as any man—it would cause an increase in our taking in a patient to the Clifden Union.

7944. An increase in the carrying?—Yes.

7945. You think that that would injure Clifden?—Yes.

7946. Do you know that each electoral division has to pay for the carriage of its own pauper?—Yes; but we won't take all these divisions, they are ragging, and we might be taking a portion and leaving a portion—I don't say where a division is taken entirely—by whatever reason Boffin Island was hung upon Clifden Union; it belonged to Mayo; it is in that county, and I don't know why it was hung upon us. We have to pay for the dispensary in Boffin every day in the year, and we are getting nothing out of it. I defy any guardian to say I am not telling the truth.

7947. But you would get richer districts than Boffin if you were to amalgamate?—We don't want the divisions.

7948. Wouldn't you like to have your rates reduced?—They cannot reduce us in any way.

7949. If you have a larger area over which to assess the cost of your establishment?—Yes, but when I believe they are nearer to their present place it is cheaper to get them into it.

7950. You don't think there would be any saving to this union?—I believe it would be a material loss.

7951. But in the event of it being shown that there would be a saving, would you be in favour of amalgamation?—Yes, but if you show me one place where you would bring one party one mile nearer—

7952. You are against it because you think it would be a loss?—Yes.

7953. And if it was shown on the figures that it would be a saving you would be in favour of it?—I certainly would not.

7954. You would not be in favour of it even if it would result in a saving?—No, because I think if these things were going to be done they should be properly laid before the guardians of this board to see

what they were going to do. Statistics should be laid before them to see what they thought should be done, and if they could see a saving in it then I say by all means do it, but I would not take it from any other source than that it would come from. I wish the guardians to see for themselves.

7955. In the event of this Commission coming to the conclusion that there would be a saving would you not be disposed to accept these opinions whether it would be a saving or not?—Knowing the country as well as I do, and knowing the boundaries, I believe it would be a loss.

7956. Have you made any calculation?—I have made a calculation on the savings.

7957. Would you mind telling me the effect of that calculation?—You think the cost of the carriage would result in a loss to this Union?—Yes. Take the cost of removing a pauper from the Oughterard Union—take the most remote point in that Union, my Bannock, there are islands which are more distant. The Corcoran doctors would be fighting about their four guinea a week for going back and forward. Take Gorman, it is eighteen miles to Maam Cross, it is fifteen miles from Maam to Clifden, and that is thirty-three miles. Then Maam Cross and Oughterard is only eight miles, so that there is a difference of twenty miles in carrying a patient.

7958. Would that be a loss to Clifden?—Yes, it would be a loss of twenty miles.

7959. Wouldn't the Gorman man pay for the cost of removing his own patient?—He might not, no more than Boffin.

7960. Can Clifden be forced to pay it?—It might be forced on us, and we are paying for Boffin; and we might have to pay for Gorman afterwards.

7961. Your point is that it would be a loss to Clifden?—Yes. I don't suppose the ratepayers in this Union are able to pay more than 2s. 6d. in the highest division. If you entered the Commission, don't mind the shopkeepers, don't mind Mitchell Henry or Members of Parliament, but go round and see the unfortunate class of people who are ratepayers. You might consider for yourselves what the rates in this Union should be.

7962. You don't believe the divisions could pay 4s. in the £1?—I don't believe they could.

Dr. Gorman recalled.

Dr. Gorman.

7963. Mr. Robinson.—What do you wish to say as to amalgamation?—I think in order to enable us to go on you must add more property to the Union.

7964. Did you hear Mr. Burke's evidence that this Union can only carry on at the best of times with a 4s. rate?—Yes.

7965. Do you think a higher rate could be collected?—I don't think a 4s. rate could be collected.

Mr. C. King, R.D., sworn.

Mr. C. King.
R.D.

7966. Mr. Robinson.—What is your opinion about amalgamation?—My opinion about the state of this Union. I think if the seed rate was dispensed with, for this Union paid over 22,000 to the Board of Works, and if the poor rate collectors used more exertions in collecting the rate we could get on well enough. I think there are not more than ten cases of rated occupiers owing rates. They are all owed by the immediate lessees.

7970. Mr. Robinson.—There are a good many small men whose rates are due?—I think you will not find twenty rated occupiers—it is all the landed proprietors who owe these rates, and I think if the collectors used more exertions in collecting these rates the union would be in a better condition and it would be a salient union.

7966. What is to be done with the Union if you don't enlarge it?—That is the difficulty.

7967. You are in favour of amalgamation?—Yes; strongly in favour of it.

7968. You think it could be carried out without hardship to the poor?—Yes. You might have an hospital at Oughterard for the sick and poor of the district surrounding. The convenience of paupers is not so great. It might be readily done.

7971. Yet 4s. would be the rate required?—Yes; and as I have stated, the poor people are paying their rates punctually except in a few cases.

7972. Do you think a 4s. rate could be levied?—I think it is exorbitant in the present crisis.

7973. How will you carry on the union?—If this money had not been taken from us to pay the seed rate I believe we would be in a very good position, and if the rates were collected we would not be in debt to the shopkeepers now.

7974. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think the ratepayers are better able to pay a high rate now than a few years ago?—No; on the contrary, less able.

7975. You think poverty is on the increase?—Yes.

7976. And you think the landlords are less able to

pay?—I don't know; they are getting their rents generally.

7977. Are they getting decreased rents?—Yes; within the last six months only, and very reluctant they are to give any reduction—three or four, Mr. Burke, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Byrne, gave reductions to their tenants.

7978. You think they are less able to pay than before?—I am quite sure of that.

7979. Do you think it would be desirable to enlarge the area of this union?—Decidedly; &c, according to Mr. Burke's view of the matter, it improved the position of our union it would be most advisable, and

though I don't agree in politics with Mr. Jas. Gorman I agree with him that if there was an hospital at Oughterard it would do, and if any patient required to be removed here, if any person was desirous of coming into the workhouse at Clifden, and if the journey would be too long for them, then by having an hospital at Oughterard they could rest for a few days.

7980. Mr. Rodington.—Is there any part of Oughterard more than a day's journey from Clifden?—No; I know the Cong district well; I would take it from Maam and add it all to Bellinaboe.

7981. And bring the rest into Clifden?—Yes; if it would improve our position I would go in for that.

Mr. Patrick O'Neill, P.L.O., sworn and examined.

7982. Mr. Robinson.—What is your opinion on the subject?—I have heard Mr. Burke's evidence about amalgamation and I quite concur with him. I am far anything at all that will reduce the rates.

7983. Do you think they can levy the 4s. rate without hardship?—I don't believe they will be able to pay it.

7984. Do you think it will involve much hardship?—I believe it will.

7985. Mr. Burke says it will require a 4s. rate in ordinary years, but if times are bad it will require an increased rate—do you think an increased rate is out of the question?—Yes; I represent Cusickillery, and there the rates were never higher than 2s. and now they are 4s.; it is stuck on a level with all the other divisions, and it is exorbitant; the ratepayers are complaining, and I don't know how they will do. The Local Government Board made an observation about

the rate there being low, and the guardians ought to be thanked for that.

7986. But you are able to wipe off the debt of that division by paying the high rate?—But those people had no advantage.

7987. Had you no expenditure?—Yes.

7988. There is a debt due on Cusickillery yet?—No. Mr. Burke.—The 4s. rate won't pay it all.

Witness.—If you saddle it with 4s. in the £ it will be very unfair.

7989. Mr. Robinson.—The 4s. won't wipe off all the liabilities of that division?—It will go very near it.

7990. How do you propose the rest to be paid?—That is in your hands.

Mr. Jas. Gorman, P.L.O.—All the guardians present who have not been examined are in favour of amalgamation.

Mr. Bernard J. Lee, P.L.O., sworn and examined.

7991. Mr. Robinson.—You are the guardian for Belmora?—Yes.

7992. Do you think the 4s. rate presses heavily on it?—It is too much for it.

7993. Are you in favour of extending the area?—I would be in favour of it if it served the union in any way—to clear it off.

7994. It would double the valuation and the rates would only be half what they are?—That would be a very desirable thing to do.

Mr. Jas. Gorman, P.L.O.—I might say that Wm. Gorman, Thos. McDonagh, and Martin Morgan, are all in favour of amalgamation.

Mr. Muller, P.L.O., recalled.

7995. Mr. King.—Do you remember the day Pat Madden brought the meal from Mr. Gorman's shop?—Yes.

7996. Five stone of Indian meal?—Yes, that is quite right.

7997. And that is all he got for the 5s.?—Yes.

7997a. Mr. Rodington.—Were you present when he got it?—No.

7998. Mr. Robinson.—How do you know he only got five stone?—I weighed all the goods he gave me.

7999. How do you know he brought all he got?—How do you know that to-morrow will be to-morrow?

Mr. King, P.L.O.—I want to say that I had nothing more to do with the business after the meal was there after the Wednesday.

8000. Mr. Rodington.—Up to Wednesday you told Fishery to employ twenty-five men?

Mr. King, P.L.O.—Yes.

Mr. Muller, P.L.O.—It is a singular coincidence that the Oughterard guardians, who are conversant with the Oughterard Union, consider that it would be injurious to people to be dragged from remote places into Clifden union, and after they voted against this measure the Clifden guardians then turned round and said 'we will drag them in, and let them die on the road if they liked.'

Major Darcy.—As one of the oldest guardians in Ireland. Connected with more unions than, perhaps, any other Guardians in Ireland, and having done as much business, I felt it a great pleasure at the close of this Commission, to ask the guardians of the Clifden union to express their feelings of appreciation with

regard to the way this inquiry has been carried out. I feel great pleasure in doing so, because up to the time this Commission sat here, our guardians were under a slur, and it was stated we had extravagantly expended money that was placed at the disposal of the union. There having been no investigation with regard to it, we had no opportunity of showing what steps were taken in carrying out that, what difficulties were in our way with regard to it, and what we had done in order to do it the best way we could individually.

We have gentlemen appointed here in whom we have the greatest confidence, men who are known and highly respected and thought of by the different governments in Ireland. No higher class men could be chosen to investigate into this, men thoroughly conversant with the poor law union, and conversant with business, men of the world, and who could discern what way the different arrangements were carried. We have reason to be grateful to the authorities who sent them here to investigate these things for themselves, and to see how far the existing union was capable of bearing this unfortunate pressure that came upon us, not through our own action, but through the visitation of God. We were visited with the loss of our crops. They have thoroughly investigated the matter, and they have shown patience in listening to our different views. We all felt warmly about it, some of us differed with regard to it, but we all had one object, and we put our views as well as we could before them. We believe they are in safe hands, and we believe their report will be such

Charles
Mr G. King,
P.L.O.

Mr. Patrick
O'Neill.

Mr. Bernard J.
Lee.

Mr. Muller,
P.L.O.

Chairman.
Mr. Muller,
J.L.B.

as we will be satisfied with, and will do justice to our country. I beg to return our most sincere thanks to the Commissioners who have so calmly, and fully, and fairly investigated the affairs of this union.

Mr. James Gorman, J.P.—I have great pleasure on my own part, and on the part of the gentlemen with whom I have associated, to second the vote of thanks so ably proposed by Major Darcy. I am sure every word he said we will all be ready to endorse. We have received great courtesy from the gentlemen comprising the Commission, and we have had ample opportunity of laying our grievances before them, and we have every hope that the Commission will afford relief to the union—we trust it will.

Mr. Redington—I am sure I speak the sentiments of my colleagues, as well as my own, when I say we are very much obliged to you for this expression of your feeling. We have derived a great deal of useful information from the evidence given before us, by all those who were kind enough to attend, and we will take it all into consideration. It would be quite premature to express any opinion as to the result of the investigation. It is extremely gratifying to me to be here on this Commission, especially as one of those who gave such valuable evidence was Major Darcy, who was so long connected with the town of Clifton by race and by residence.

The Commission then closed.

Dec. 17, 1886.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 1886.

DOUGHTYRARD UNION.

The Commissioners opened the Inquiry in the Boardroom of the Workhouse.

Mr. J. Gilmore was sworn.

Mr. J.
Gilmore.

8001. Mr. Redington.—You are the Clerk of the Union?—Yes.

8002. This return (Table II.), is a correct return of the expenditure under the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act?—Yes; it is prepared from the relief list, and differs from the return previously sent in to the Local Government Board; but the last return is the correct one.

8003. What is the correct return taken from?—From the relief lists.

8004. The relief lists are written up?—Yes.

8005. Is this return of the grants correct?—Yes.

8006. Between what dates was the expenditure all incurred?—Between the 7th of May and the 1st of August.

8007. Is ordinary out-door relief entered in the return?—No.

8008. Or the price of tools?—No.

8009. Are separate books kept for ordinary out-door relief?—Yes.

8010. How much did the expenditure for tools come to?—To £50, and they are charged to the electoral divisions in which they were used.

8011. How are officers' salaries charged?—Officers' salaries under the Act are charged to the union at large.

8012. Are either of these items charged in the return of expenditure?—No.

8013. Is this return of the numbers relieved under the Act correct?—Yes.

8014. At what date were persons first relieved under the Act?—On the 15th of May (week ending). The return is prepared from returns made week by week to me by the relieving officers, and as more accurate than returns previously made and supplied by me to the Local Government Board.

8015. When did the Board receive the authority to put the Act in operation?—On the 22nd of April.

8016. An instructional letter was received by the Guardians from the Local Government Board?—Yes.

8017. Were copies sent to the relieving officers?—No.

8018. Were the relieving officers informed by you that they could put the Act in operation?—Yes.

8019. What was the next step?—The guardians then passed a resolution on the 29th of April appointing temporary relieving officers, and asking to be allowed to anticipate the order for out-door relief.

8020. How many temporary relieving officers were

then appointed?—Nine, and two were appointed subsequently.

8021. Did they act independently?—Yes, each acted independently of the other, and was responsible for his own division.

8022. Had the permanent relieving officers charge of the ordinary relief only?—Yes, with the exception of Mr. Flanagan, who was the only one who managed the temporary men.

8023. Did the temporary officers write up the books?—Yes.

8024. Had you a sufficient number of application and report books?—Not until the 13th of May.

8025. What was done in the meantime?—A species of "time book" was kept by the relieving officers, in which the names of the recipients of relief were recorded. These time books were not submitted to the guardians until the 20th of May, and the application books were not written up till after that.

8026. Did the Guardians examine the application and report books?—Yes, some of them at least, but the number was so large that it would take a month to examine them all.

8027. Was any adjourned meeting held?—Yes, one adjourned meeting was held. The guardians sometimes adjourned the Board without completing the ruling of the books.

8028. Was the relief given provisionally by the Board?—Yes, at first.

8029. Can you find any case in which relief was ordered by the guardians?—No, I cannot find any such case at present.

8030. Were tickets for relief issued by the temporary relieving officers?—Yes.

8031. Were they issued on certain contractors?—Yes, at first they were, but afterwards they were made open tickets on any contractors.

8032. Were contractors appointed?—Yes, on the 20th of May, but bonds were not entered into. Notices for tenders for contracts were issued, and the contract price for coal was 26.

8033. Could holders of tickets go where they chose for coal?—Yes, and in some cases they went to Galway for it.

8034. Are all the accounts of the contractors furnished?—Not yet.

8035. When were the relief lists made up?—After the relief was stopped, and the returns sent weekly

to the Local Government Board were compiled from the returns received by the relieving officers.

8036. Did the relieving officers attend regularly during the relief time?—No.

8037. Did the guardians call the attention of the relieving officers to the necessity for writing up their books?—Yes.

8038. Was that order recorded by you on the minutes?—No.

8039. Did the relieving officers sometimes ask for further assistance?—Yes, and they generally got it.

8040. Did you examine the application books week by week?—No, because they were taken away by the relieving officers.

8041. Are the accounts all made up to the 29th of September, 1886?—Yes.

8042. Could the relieving officers have written up the books by the second week of the relief operations?—Yes, if they had had time.

8043. Were tenders offered at different prices?—Yes, but a uniform price was finally decided upon verbally between the contractors and the guardians at a meeting of the Board.

8044. Were the relief works stopped for any time?—Yes, for a few days. They were stopped on the 13th May, by order of the guardians, to enable the relieving officers to write up their application and report books.

OUSTEDMAN.
Mr. J.
Colman.

Patrick George, Relieving Officer, sworn.

8045. Mr. Robinson.—You were one of the relieving officers during the administration of the Act?—Yes, I had charge of the Coombe district.

8046. Did you put all the people to work who were admitted to the relief in your district?—Yes, no one else did so in my district.

8047. Did you make full inquiries in every case?—Yes, I visited the homes of the applicants, and found they were very destitute.

8048. When did you first lay your books before the board?—On the second week after the relief works started; but I cannot say how soon after that I attended again. The books were always signed when I presented them, except on one occasion, when the pressure of work before the guardians was so great as not to admit of their doing so. I first transferred the names to the ordinary application books of Daniel Walsh.

8049. When did you issue your tickets?—I issued them weekly at Rossmore, and they were generally open tickets.

8050. Do you think they got good value for their tickets?—I think they did.

8051. Who appointed the gangers?—I did; they were paid 1s. a week more than the other men.

8052. When is the poverty greatest in Coombe?—During the spring months.

8053. Can you account for the reduction in the numbers receiving relief in your district?—No, except that the works were stopped by the guardians' orders.

8054. Were private charities in operation part of the time?—I believe so.

8055. And they may have provided for the people who were struck off?—Yes.

8056. There were 558 people struck off on the 5th of June, can you account in any other way for how these people managed to get on during the stoppage of the relief?—No.

8057. Were the people worse off last spring than in the previous year?—Yes.

8058. Did the people get anything but Indian meal on their tickets?—No; they generally got Indian meal so far as I know.

Patrick George.

Patrick Walsh, Relieving Officer, sworn.

8059. Mr. Robinson.—You were a temporary relieving officer during the Relief Act?—Yes.

8060. When were you appointed?—On the 18th of June; I had charge of the relief works; the people were put on the works by my father before my appointment; he issued all the tickets and I merely gave him the names of the persons working.

8061. Did you visit the homes of the persons who were relieved?—Yes.

8062. Can you account for the fact that more people are returned as relieved than there are in the division, which appears from the clerk's returns to have been the case?—No, I cannot.

8063. Did you not to the end of the relief?—Yes.

8064. How often did you attend the board meetings?—About once a fortnight.

8065. How often did you fill in the books?—Once a week.

8066. Did you enter the name of a contractor on the tickets which you issued?—Yes, if the people wished it done.

8067. When do you think is the worst period of the year so far as distress is concerned?—I think July is.

8068. Who appointed the gangers?—My father; and he paid them 1s. a week extra. I always had the books before the board; my father never did.

Patrick Walsh.

Patrick Toole, Relieving Officer, sworn.

8069. Mr. Robinson.—You were one of the relieving officers during the administration of the Relief Act?—Yes.

8070. Had you charge of the relief works?—Yes, towards the end.

8071. Did you visit the homes of the applicants in every instance?—Yes, in some cases; but not all.

8072. Why was that?—Well, I knew the circumstances of the people sufficiently.

8073. Did you take any means to ascertain whether they were destitute or not?—Yes.

8074. And then you placed them on the relief works?—Yes, if they were destitute.

8075. Did anyone place them on the works but yourself?—No, not while I had charge of them.

8076. No guardian ever put people on?—No.

8077. Had you sole charge of your district?—Yes.

8078. When did you first receive the application and report books?—I could not say.

8079. Had you the application and report books when you were appointed?—No.

8080. How did you take the names of the applicants?—I took them down on paper.

8081. Then did you ever fill in an application and report book?—I did, sir.

8082. How did you fill it in?—From the slips of paper. I copied them, and filled it in in that way.

8083. Did you ever fill the application and report book from the blocks of the tickets?—No; I had the names on the slips, and took them from that.

8084. Was it the first week you got the application and report books, or the second?—The second.

8085. Did you attend the Board often?—Yes.

8086. Were the cases entered as cases for provisional relief?—Yes.

8087. Did you take the orders of the guardians as to the continuance of these cases?—Yes.

8088. And did the guardians rule these cases?—Yes.

Patrick Toole.

O'NEILLMAN.

Patrick Toole.

8087. Did they tell you whether to continue them or to strike them off?—They left them to me.

8088. Why did not the guardians, when all the information was before them, then give you orders on the books as to the continuance of the cases?—They simply told me to continue the relief if the people wanted it.

8089. But the guardians did not order the continuance of the relief?—No.

8090. In fact they left it all to yourself?—Yes.

8091. Were there any contractors' names on the tickets?—No.

8092. Who were the contractors in your district?—There was a lot of them, and I gave the tickets, and let them go just where they liked.

8093. Were there any but shopkeepers who were contractors—any farmers?—No; all were shopkeepers.

8094. Was there the contractors?—Well, there were really no contractors—I gave blank tickets.

8095. And the people might just go where they liked?—Yes.

8096. With regard to the gangmen, who appointed them?—I appointed them in my district.

8097. Did you give them higher wages than the rest?—Yes; I think they were getting 10s. a week at the commencement.

8098. What was the nature of the works?—Roads.

8099. Were they works of utility?—Yes.

8100. Were you instructed by the guardians as to the nature of the works?—Yes.

8101. They named the works?—Yes.

8102. Did any of the persons of the adjoining divisions obtain relief in your division?—No.

8103. Were you acquainted with every person in your division?—Yes; I knew every householder.

8104. How long did you keep the people at work?—From morning until night.

8105. Eight hours?—Ten, sometimes.

8106. How many persons from one family did you employ?—One.

8107. Was the amount of relief you gave determined by yourself or the guardians?—I was to give so much a week.

8108. Did you make no difference in the case of

men with a large family, and men with a small family?—No.

8109. If a man had no one but himself, and another man had ten in family, would you make no difference between them?—Every man would get the same.

8110. Did not that strike you as rather unfair?—It was the only way we could manage.

8111. Did the people ever go on the works without going to you?—No.

8112. They always waited for a direction?—Yes.

8113. How often did you give out tickets?—Every week.

8114. Did you specify the food to be given?—Yes; Indian meal.

8115. Do you know if they got anything else?—They could get what they liked, but I put down Indian meal on my tickets.

8116. Do you know if there were any tickets outstanding after the works ceased?—No; I think they all came in here.

8117. Were many people given relief who did no labour test?—Not many; five or six.

8118. Is Thomas O'Malley in your district?—No.

8119. Is Edward King?—No.

8120. Patrick Meany?—No.

8121. Where did you get the tools for the works?—From Macdon.

8122. Were you under him?—Yes.

8123. Had Macdon charge of any of the relief works?—Yes.

8124. Mr. Redington.—Is that your writing in this book?—Yes.

8125. Why did you not fill up the number of each family?—Was that book brought before the guardians at all?—If it was it is not my writing.

8126. But you have just said it is your writing?—Well, I made a mistake.

8127. Whose writing is it?—I do not know.

8128. Who succeeded you?—Macdon.

8129. What date did you cease to be assistant relieving officer?—I could not say.

8130. Mr. Redington (to the Clerk).—When did Mr. Toole cease to be assistant relieving officer?—I don't know at present.

Mr. James Mack, Relieving Officer, sworn.

James Mack. 8131. Were the works stopped for a week once?—Yes.

8132. Why did they stop the works?—I do not know.

8133. Who ordered it?—The guardians.

8134. Here in the board room?—The works were stopped a couple of times.

8135. What steps did you take with regard to the poor in the interval?—I took no steps. We had to commence again.

8136. How long were the works stopped?—For a week at a time.

8137. Did you give any provisional relief during that time?—No.

8138. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think many people suffered by the stoppage of the works?—Yes, some no doubt.

8139. Were there many applications for admission to the workhouse during that time?—I think not.

8140. Mr. Redington.—Are these entries "Paid by P. J. M.," yours?

8141. None of this book is written by you?—No.

8142. I find the first week 2,624 persons were in receipt of relief, and the next week 2,100 only. Had you any reason for striking off the 500?—I cannot say, but I know some were struck off.

8143. Mr. Robinson.—By whom?—By me.

8144. Mr. Redington.—Why did you put them on the first week?—I do not remember now.

8145. Did they go to work in spite of you?—No.

8146. Mr. Robinson.—Are you a man in good circumstances, a wealthy man?—No, sir.

8147. Well, you are liable to be discharged for a great deal of the relief which you gave. What is your district? Crumppan.

8148. Are the poor people there?—Yes.

8149. Many of them?—Yes.

8150. Have many of them cattle?—A few, but that is all their means.

8151. How many people did you relieve at Crumppan?—I could not remember.

8152. You had charge of the relief of distress there?—Yes.

8153. Had you any assistant?—Only the gangmen.

8154. Did you appoint them?—Yes, with the assistance of the clergyman.

8155. The clergyman advised you as to who should be employed?—Yes.

8156. Did you visit the houses of the people you relieved?—The majority.

8157. Why did you not visit them all?—I knew them myself of my own knowledge.

8156. You thought you knew sufficient about them to do without seeing their houses?—Yes, but I made every inquiry.

8157. Were there any cases in which you made no inquiry?—I could not say.

8158. With regard to the starting of the relief works, did you start the people to work on each road?—I did, &c., at the suggestion of the clergymen, they were employed and I took the suggestion.

8159. They put them on the work?—Yes, and so did I myself.

8160. Did any of the guardians put them on, without consulting you?—No, we had no guardian then.

8161. The clergymen then suggested the names on the list?—Yes.

8162. And did you give them the relief at the end of the week?—Yes.

8163. You signed the tickets?—Yes.

8164. Did you give out the tickets?—Yes.

8165. In every case?—Yes. Sometimes they were not printed at first and we filled them in from the lists afterwards.

8166. Did you put the amount of meal they were to receive on the ticket?—Yes.

8167. Did you put the name of the contractor?—Yes, sometimes.

8168. Sometimes?—Yes, and sometimes left it blank.

8169. How did you write up your application and report books?—From the lists that we had from all the parishes.

8170. Every man that made an application to you put him on the list?—Yes.

8171. And every one that was put on by the clergymen?—Yes; gangs of twelve and fourteen, and so on.

8172. Who selected the roads?—The guardians selected them.

8173. Who decided the amount of relief to be given in each case?—The guardians fixed it at 1s. 6d. at first, and then reduced it to 1s.

8174. How much did you give the gangmen?—One shilling extra.

8175. It was all paid in money?—Yes, except the "walking gangmen."

8176. What is that?—Going from one road to another to look over them.

8177. Had the walking gangmen power to put people on the works?—No, no one but myself, unless there was a very exceptional case of great destitution.

8178. Did you attend the meetings of the guardians?—Not very often; only on two or three occasions.

8179. Did you bring your books with you on these occasions?—Yes, when I got the application and report books.

8180. How long was it before you got them?—A good while.

8181. Three weeks?—More.

8182. Was it a month?—It was, I think; it was over a month.

8183. So that you did not submit any books to the guardians for a month?—No.

8184. And you had sole charge of the relief in your district for that time?—Yes; I made the amount out as well as I could.

8185. When did you first commence to write up your application and report book?—The week ending the 29th of April.

8186. So far the first few weeks the guardians had no knowledge of what you had on the works?—I think I sent in a return of the cases.

8187. Of the numbers?—Yes.

8188. But they had no knowledge of the names?—No.

8189. For the first few weeks?—No.

8190. For how many weeks did you not attend?—I could not say how many weeks I was absent.

8191. Did you attend the second week?—I attended the second week here when the work was started.

8192. When you attended here first with your books did the guardians direct you to discontinue the relief or go on with it, or how did they sign the books?—They signed some of the books, and some of them they did not sign.

8193. Why not?—They had not time. Some of them are unsigned yet.

8194. I see here that on the 10th of July there is 4s. down for the relief of Michael Joyce which is not ordered by the guardians, and 9s. for provisional relief before that. Why did you give the 4s. without its being ordered?—Well, the 9s. he got at first when he had no employment, and afterwards at the time he got the 4s. he got some employment, but he fell out of that employment, and I gave him the 4s. to help him on.

8195. Well, take another case—a man was receiving 6s. and by order of the Board of the 23rd of June he was ordered to the workhouse by J. B. Joyce, and after that you gave him 6s. 1?—I did.

8196. Did you offer him a ticket for the workhouse?—I did very often.

8197. Well?—Well, he never came.

8198. And did you think that when the guardians ordered him to the workhouse you had authority to substitute out-door relief?—I did not understand that rightly.

8199. How can you account for the fact that there is no order of the Board in these cases—here is 3s.; another case 4s., and so on?—They all worked.

8200. But they were not brought before the guardians?—It was provisional relief.

8201. It is not entered under the proper column for that?—There may be some mistake. There was only part of that book ruled.

8202. What was the cause of that?—It was because of my sickness.

8203. When was the distress at its height—when was the necessity for relief most apparent?—At the latter end of March to the first week of August.

8204. I want to know when, in your opinion, was the distress at its worst?—In June, or July, or May.

8205. Well, of these three months when was the distress greatest?—Well, I think, sir, in July it was worst.

8206. How is that, for I find that in May there were 2,337 cases on relief, and in July only 115?—That was owing to the works being started in different places.

8207. What works?—Well, there were three piers in Crumpton.

8208. How many were employed there?—A good deal.

8209. A thousand?—No.

8210. Well, that would not account for the difference?—Well, I cannot say.

8211. Can you account for it in any way?—No.

8212. Was there much ordinary relief given at that time?—There was.

8213. Did you give or supply relief in your district?—I did.

8214. There was no change in the relief between May and July, as what became of the thousand people struck off in the meanwhile?—I do not know.

8215. Did you hear any complaints?—No.

8216. Do you think that the poor suffered in any way?—I do not think they did, &c.

8217. Rev. Mr. Eggleston.—Was there not some charity distributed in your district?—Yes; Father Conway and others did a good deal.

8218. Mr. Robinson.—A good many people were relieved from charitable funds?—Yes.

8219. Do you know what in May?—Yes; and besides, every case recommended to me by the priests I relieved.

8220. But were you giving relief to any people that were relieved from charitable funds?—I think not, from what I can understand.

8221. Do you think they got more charitable relief

ON THE RECORD.
JAMES MACK.

in May than in the other months?—Yes; and in June and July too. I was sick, however, a good bit.

8224. Who did your doctor while you were unwell?—Mr. Conry, and then I got another. I got power from the guardians for ten or twelve days more.

8225. Mr. Robinson.—Under the head of how much had a man occupies you generally put down a sum of money. Did you mean that to show the rent?—Yes.

8226. I see, "Thomas Clarke, £12"—is that his rent?—Yes.

8227. He had four cows?—Yes.

8228. Did you consider him destitute?—Yes; he was as destitute as the man who would have no cattle.

8229. Rev. Mr. Esposito.—Could he get sale for his cows?—No, he could not.

8230. Mr. Robinson.—"Stephen McDonough, £14"—is that his rent?—Yes.

8231. Was he destitute?—Yes; he was as scarce of food as any man could be.

8232. Had he cows?—Yes.

8233. How many had he?—Four or five.

8234. Then there is Tom Clarke, £13?—Yes.

8235. How many cows had he?—Four, I think.

8236. You have six head down here?—He may have had that.

8237. Do you know Darby Flaherty, of Ros?—Yes.

8238. Rent, 25?—Yes.

8239. I see he had four cows and part of a hooter?—Yes.

8240. And was he destitute?—He appeared to be so to hunger, and he was doing no business.

8241. Was the hooter no use to him?—No, for it wanted repairs.

8242. Do you know Pat Kelly?—Yes.

8243. Is he a poor man?—Yes; and a man in delicate health. He is out of health for twelve years.

8244. You have him entered in this way:—"Has not much means; not really destitute; four cows." Why did you give him relief if he was not really destitute?—Well, I do not know, sir. Every person was getting some of the work.

8245. Everyone? I am reading your entry in which you say "not really destitute." What is the meaning of that?—I considered at that time that he was not really destitute.

8246. Then why did you give him relief if he was not really destitute?—Well, I do not know myself. Perhaps it was the clergyman ordered me.

8247. Mr. Robinson.—What do you understand by the description, a destitute person?—A person having no means.

8248. Who was the Larry Kelly you gave relief to?—He was acting as gangman.

8249. On the works?—Yes.

John Casey, Relieving Officer, sworn.

8250. Mr. Robinson.—You were a relieving officer during the administration of the Relief Act?—Yes.

8251. Did you write up these books yourself?—Yes.

8252. Did you ever submit them to the guardians?—Yes, and they were signed by the chairman.

Mr. Gilmore (clerk), recalled.

8253. Mr. Robinson.—Whose handwriting is this in this book?—I don't know, except it is Casey's.

8254. Is it a general book?—Yes.

8255. And you don't know whose book it is?—It is Casey's book.

John Casey, re-examined.

8256. Mr. Robinson (to witness).—You cannot account for this book being written up in another handwriting than your own?—No, I cannot.

8257. Did Relieving Officer Moss do the duty in your division when you were discontinued?—Yes.

8258. In the week ending the 8th of May?—Yes, I think so.

8259. When you enter in your book "worked on road 8th May," does that mean the week ending or beginning on that date?—Beginning.

8260. Well, that man had four or five cows I see, why did you give him relief?—I do not know. I considered they were destitute as could be. I knew a man who offered a cow for a bag of meal, and he could not get it.

8261. Had the clergyman power to strike the people off the works?—Yes.

8262. Did they ever exercise that power?—No.

8263. So every person struck off was struck off by you?—Yes.

8264. The clergy would not do it without consulting you?—No.

8265. And you struck off all that were struck off?—Yes.

8266. Did the clergyman give you a list of the persons whom they relieved from week to week?—No.

8267. So you had no knowledge of how much was actually being given?—No.

8268. Can you explain why the numbers are reduced suddenly within one week from 412 to 186?—I can't say; I can't remember; I cannot rightly explain how that happened.

8269. Mr. Robinson.—You know Martin Ganly of Carrane North?—Yes.

8270. Is he destitute?—No, he has a horse and cart.

8271. Did you give him relief?—Yes.

8272. He got 21 s. 6d. t.—Well, they were not getting any demand for the cattle and they were as poor as any others.

8273. But you do not consider a man with a horse and cart destitute?—Well, not all out.

8274. Then why did you give him relief?—He could not dispose of them things. It was a common sort.

8275. Did he ever try?—Yes, he did, and went to the fair.

8276. Had he any cows?—He might have.

8277. And do you think that if you brought such a case as that before the notice of the guardians they would have sanctioned relief being given to him?—Well, indeed, sir, they might not.

8278. And why did you take on yourself to do it?—[No answer.]

8279. Are there many ratepayers residing in that division?—Six or eight.

8280. Do you think there are many cases of that kind—of relief given to such persons—in your division?—There are the most exceptional cases.

8281. They do not appear to be signed?—There is a mistake. There is another book.

8282. But why did you not lay this book before the guardians?—That book is not in my handwriting.

8283. Whose is it?—I don't know.

8284. Are there many ratepayers residing in that division?—Six or eight.

8285. Do you think there are many cases of that kind—of relief given to such persons—in your division?—There are the most exceptional cases.

8287. Did you write his name in the Application book?—Yes.

8288. Then his name must have been put down again, for it is here in the book which is not in your writing?—I don't know how that is.

8289. Did you give him that relief on the 12th of June?—Well, I am not sure. But I continued at the work till the 17th.

8290. And you entered this 18d worth of meat?—Yes; but that is not my book.

8291. Did the man get double relief?—I can't say—I only know I relieved him up to the 17th.

8292. Did you give Pat Sullivan relief?—Yes, up to the 17th.

8293. Then he must have got 3s twice, for he is down in your book and in this book for the same thing?—I think there must be some mistake.

8294. Were all your cases signed by the chairman?—Yes.

8295. Do you remember James Lee?—Yes.

8296. No. 68 in this book is put down as Pat Curley in the outdoor relief list and another name on the other list—in fact the names do not correspond—can you explain the difference between the Application and Report book and the outdoor relief list?—I can not.

8297. Mr. Redington.—Do you know John Carter?—I do.

8298. His rent appears to be £20?—Yes.

8299. Did you give him relief?—Yes.

8300. Was he in need of it?—He was.

8301. Had he cattle?—He had.

8302. Had he a horse?—Yes.

8303. And cart?—Yes; he was on the point of being evicted.

8304. Mr. Robinson.—Was he evicted?—No, he was not.

8305. Why did you give relief to him?—Because he was destitute.

8306. Mr. Redington.—Could he not sell his horse and cart?—I do not think he would get anything for them.

8307. Do you know Pat Lyden?—Yes.

8308. What is his rent?—About £24.

8309. Was he destitute?—Yes, as far as not having provisions.

8310. What stock had he?—I cannot say.

8311. Did you go on his land?—I know his land.

8312. What stock had he?—I cannot say.

8313. Had he any head of cattle?—I think he has about five.

8314. Has he ten?—I think not.

8315. Has he over five head?—About that.

8316. And a horse and cart?—Yes. There are two Pat Lydens—there is Pat Lyden (Pat), and Pat Lyden (Dan). He is a poor man.

8317. What rent does he pay?—£10, I think, or about that.

8318. Did he work on the roads?—Yes.

8319. Who succeeded you as relieving officer for Warmhole?—Mena.

Matthew Moss, Relieving Officer, sworn.

8320. Mr. Robinson.—You were assistant relieving-officer during the Relief Act?—Yes; assistant to Mr. Flanagan.

8321. You filled in this application and report book?—Yes; according to instructions.

8322. When were you acting?—In June and July.

8323. Did you get a list of the people that were working?—Yes; we were ordered to go every Monday to pay for the work, and there was no one getting relief except by way of work. We had nothing to do with Casey's book.

8324. Did you submit your book to the board?—The book was in the possession of Mr. Flanagan.

8325. But you filled it in?—Yes; and he had charge of it.

8326. Did you give tickets for relief?—Yes, I was then assisting to fill the tickets; there were two or three assisting according to the men working and the applicants.

8327. Were the tickets on any particular contractor?—No. In the latter end the people had leave to go wherever they liked to get their meat, for they complained that they could not use some of the meat.

8328. Who were the contractors in your district?—I think in that district Michael Darcy was one, William Mc'Donnagh another, and Miss Sweeney another.

8329. Who is Mr. Mc'Donnagh?—He resides at Rossmull.

8330. Has he got a shop?—Yes.

8331. Did you appoint gangmen?—No.

8332. Who appointed them?—They were appointed by the board I think.

8333. Mr. Redington.—Do you know John Carter?—Yes; but I do not reside in his locality.

8334. Did you give him relief in June or July?—I am sure I filled in tickets for him according as he worked.

8335. You filled in tickets for him?—Yes. Mr. Flanagan was over the books, and we used all fill in tickets.

8336. Did you put your name to them?—Yes, as assistant—that was after Flanagan's name, which was on all—it was to show who filled the ticket. I would sign my initials to it after Flanagan's name.

8337. Did you sign any ticket which Flanagan did not sign?—Not that I am aware of.

8338. Was it your duty to bring the books before the Board of Guardians?—No, I was only the assistant clerk. I was also assistant at Letterfoote.

8339. Did you make inquiries as to the destination of the persons receiving relief?—Yes, and any widow or person not able to work I gave relief to; and the persons able to work, they got relief only by way of work. Whenever I considered the person was well off I visited the place.

8340. Were any persons put on the work except by you or the relieving officer. Were the clergy empowered to put people on?—I am not sure. I got a circular from Mr. Gilmore saying any able-bodied person who would work for 1s. 6d. worth of Indian meal would get it.

8341. Were you told that any able-bodied person who would work would get relief?—Yes, I got a circular.

8342. Did the circular say anything about their being destitute?—No, any able-bodied person, that is how I took it to be—that is one man out of every house.

8343. And did you understand from that that every man you found working was entitled to relief?—I would make enquiries as to whether they were able to do without it, and if they were I would not give relief.

8344. Did any person go on the works without being ordered by you?—Yes.

8345. And what course did you adopt?—When they stated their case I went to their homes and saw the place and made inquiries, and if they were deserving cases I did not stop them.

8346. Were any such persons not paid by you?—Any of those that went on the works I gave them tickets.

8347. Did you consider yourself bound to give them tickets?—Yes, if they were deserving.

8348. Did you get an order from the board in every case whether to continue the work or not?—I got an order to give work to the destitute and not to those who were not destitute. I wrote up the books myself in Letterfoote.

Overseer,
John Casey.

Matthew Moss.

QUERIED.
—
Master
Note

8343. In Wexford you were merely the assistant?
—Yes.

8344. I observe that you reduced the numbers in Letterford very much?—Yes.

8350. How did you do that?—When I found out that the guardians put them down from 1s. 6d to 1s., there was a great part of them would not work for 1s. There was a road on which they worked, and at this time there were old men who had to walk across a swampy district, and they simply could not do it.

8351. When did the guardians reduce the pay?—I could not say.

8352. Was it in consequence of the rates being reduced that the men would not work?—No, not exactly that. But there were old men and they could not walk the distance.

8353. But if they could walk for the 1s. 6d., why not for the 1s.?—The part of the road they did work on was done, and then when this portion of road was done to, the distance, and the labour to travel was more than they could do.

8354. How did you reduce your relief by one-half on the 19th of June?—The roads being inconvenient.

8355. Were the rates not the same on the 19th of June as on the 26th?—Yes.

8356. If that is so would not those who worked on the 19th have been able to work?—No. The road was to their doors, but this road began at the mountain district.

8357. Well what became of these remaining people who were not able to travel?—They applied for relief.

8358. Did they get it?—Some did, but that was just about the time I got to be assistant to Mr. Finnegan.

J. Finnegan, Relieving Officer, sworn.

J. Finnegan.

8367. Mr. Robinson—You are a relieving officer?
—Yes I was, but I am not now.

8368. You have resigned?—Yes, I sent in my resignation about a month ago.

8369. What clerical divisions had you charge of?
—Wexford, Letterford, and Oughterard.

8370. You had assistants?—Yes, John Casey was at Oughterard with me, and Moss at Letterford.

8371. When Casey was dismissed who did the duty?—I had two assistants.

8372. How is it so few of your books are signed?—They were laid before the Board of Guardians, but they kept putting it off from day to day.

8373. Were any of the books never before the guardians?—The books were laid on the table.

8374. Did you submit your book to the guardians to be ruled?—Yes, I just stood there and they always said, Oh, you will have time enough.

8375. Was it that they had not time just then?—I really could not say.

8376. Were any of your books ruled?—Yes. The ordinary outdoor relief books were.

8377. Had the guardians any notion of who you were relieving under this Relief Act?—They had.

8378. How so, if they never saw your books?—The parties used to put their applications before the guardians, and the guardians would direct me to give relief.

8379. That was out of the Board-room?—No, in the Board-room.

8380. Were the applications in writing?—Yes.

8381. In every single case?—Oh, no.

8382. In many?—In a good many.

8383. Would you say in the majority of cases?—I could not say that.

8384. Then there were a good many who received relief of whom the guardians knew nothing?—No, some guardians assisted me outside the Board room, but of course there were cases of the kind.

8385. Did you not think that a great responsibility to take on yourself, to give relief from the commencement to the end, without laying the books before the

8359. You could not attend there as regularly as before?—All the assistant clerks were called on to resign, and he was appointed then to Letterford.

8360. Did he cut off one-half the rates?—I cannot say that.

8361. I see that on the 5th of June you cut 100 people off the relief, how do you account for that?—I can't say.

8361a. I see that you jump from 385 to 285 in one week, under what circumstances was that reduction made?—Well, as far as I can tell, we had a sitting here, and it was brought before the Board, and I think that Mr. O'Flaherty came in here, and I believe a good many were knocked off the relief altogether. It was said that if they were so destitute they might come into the workhouse.

8362. Did any come in?—I can't say, I can't swear.

8363. Did anything happen in consequence of those 100 persons being refused relief?—Well, I know that a good many were almost begging about, and any people that had anything supplied them with shoes—there were a good deal of old bogan-women—who commenced to beg again.

8364. They were not people with crops?—Oh; no, people living in wretched beggary huts.

8365. So that portion of the relief was applied to these bogan-women?—Yes, and when it was cut off, they went begging.

8366. From the certified return however I see that only one person was admitted to the workhouse the week I speak of; and on the 29th June, at the time the relief works were reduced, only one admission is recorded so that it had no great effect on the admission?—No.

Board and getting them ruled?—I thought it was no harm when I was ordered to do it.

8386. Did you ever mention to the guardians that your books had not been looked at from the beginning to the end?—The guardians said it would be time enough.

8387. Did you report at each Board day that your books were not looked at?—I know I attended each Board day.

8388. You and your assistants determined solely by yourselves, the amount of relief to be given?—No, no.

8389. Who then determined it?—It was according to the number of days work.

8390. Yes, you determined it then?—Yes, in that way, according to the work. They worked more in one week than another.

8391. You relieved the man according to his work, not according to his destitution?—Yes, but he worked because he was destitute.

8392. Mr. Robinson—Did they all work?—Most of them.

8393. Old and decrepit people you relieved without work?—Yes.

8394. You know Michael Kelly of Oughterard?—Yes.

8395. Why did you give him 25s. one week?—He was working with a horse and car.

8396. Does that apply also to Joseph Quinn?—I suppose so.

8397. He got 25s. Is he the son of a guardian?—Yes, but he is married.

8398. Where does he live?—In Oughterard.

8399. What is his valuation?—I could not say, I do not think he has any land.

8400. He has a house and cart?—He has.

8401. What was it without land?—He came with it.

8402. And you gave him 25s. for how many days work?—Ten days are put down there.

8403. Mr. Robinson—About £1,500 was spent on relief between Oughterard and Wexford, do you think that was necessary?—I never saw the country in a worse state.

8404. Was it necessary?—Yes, I think so.

8404. When you employed a horse and car, did you pay for it in relief?—Yes.

8405. Mr. Redington.—Did Martin Burke work with a horse and car?—Yes.

8406. How many weeks?—I can't say. I acted according to orders.

Mr. Patrick Kyle, Relieving Officer, sworn.

8406. Mr. Robinson.—You are a Relieving Officer?—Yes.

8410. Had you charge of a relief district during the administration of the Relief Act?—Yes.

8411. Did you relieve many?—Yes, who were not able to work themselves.

8412. Can you give any information as to the method of administration?—The others had charge of the works.

8413. Have you knowledge of how they did their work?—I couldn't say as to that.

Mr. John H. Joyce, Chairman of the Board, sworn.

8415. Mr. Redington.—Where do you live?—At Oughtens; I am chairman of the board.

8419. You are acquainted with the circumstances of the relief?—Yes.

8420. There was great distress this spring?—I never seen worse.

8421. In what parts was it worst?—In the southern parts and convenient to the town.

8422. About what months was it prevailing?—All the summer months.

8423. Which were the worst and most trying?—June and July.

8424. Are you acquainted with the method of administering the relief?—Yes, to a great extent.

8425. Are you satisfied that the amount of relief given was necessary?—I believe it was, because I have dealings with a good many of the people in the way of shop goods and they were not able to pay their debts at all.

8426. You did not think that the great expense could be saved in any way?—No, unless by making the people suffer.

8427. All who got relief you think were destitute?—Yes.

8428. On the 13th of May, shortly after the works began, an order was made to stop the relief works for four days?—Yes, I remember.

8429. Could you tell us on what grounds the stoppage of the works was ordered?—I think it was on account of the relieving officers not furnishing their accounts; we gave directions to the relieving officers to furnish their accounts which, in many instances, they were very slow to do.

8430. Was there not danger in stopping the works?—Yes; but we gave instructions to the relieving officers to give the relief in urgent cases.

8431. So you do not know if anyone suffered by it?—I am not aware.

8432. In the return of the clerk I find there is great discrepancy in the numbers from week to week in receipt of relief; in June there was a great falling off, how do you account for that?—I can't account for it, for the distress was uniform throughout.

8433. On the 29th of June, which I suppose was a bad month, there were 5,500 in receipt of relief, while on the 5th of June there were 15,600; that was a great difference?—The only way to account for it is, that the relieving officers had not furnished their accounts and we wanted to see what money we were spending.

8434. But the relieving officers had instructions to give provisional relief?—Yes.

8435. And they appear to have struck off one-half of those in receipt of relief; was not that a great risk?—Unless they were protected by the provisional relief it would have been.

8407. Mr. Robinson.—Who put the men on the works?—The assistants and some myself.

8408. Did you get assistance from the Board outside?—Yes, as to the circumstances of the people.

8414. Did you know the circumstances of the people?—Yes.

8415. Do you think the relief was economically administered?—I could not exactly say that; but so far as I myself was concerned, I did the best I could.

8416. Were you aware of persons receiving relief who should not?—Anyone seeking the work got it.

8417. Was the willingness to work taken as the test of destitution?—Those that would work were given the relief too.

8436. But this return includes the total number; Mr. Thomas Joyce, P. S. A. do you not think it was risky?—Yes, it would be; but the falling off may have been that the people were away getting work.

8437. On the 20th of June there were 6,500 on relief, and in July it went to 12,000; was the staff all out then?—I cannot say that; a great many went to work on the relief works.

8438. Did the relieving officers bring their books up regularly?—No, they did not; the guardians always instructed them to bring their books up regularly, but they did not.

8439. Did you initial the books?—All that came before me; there might be five, six, or eight on the table.

8440. Did the board adjourn?—Yes, on a couple of occasions.

8441. Were you satisfied to leave matters so much in the hands of the relieving officers?—We gave instructions to relieve the people and apply the labour test; besides we had the parish priests to guide us, they used to attend here, and they knew every house in the parish.

8442. Were the names of the people on the books ever read out, or brought before the attention of those in the boardroom?—Yes, some of them; it was physically impossible to read the whole of them.

8443. But as regards those whose names were not written you had no check?—No.

8444. Some of those books have no signature?—No, I often called on Flanagan to produce his books, but except in the cases of ordinary relief it was almost impossible; of course the initials would show.

8445. As regards Warmhole and Oughtens I see no initials. You know the large amount spent at Oughtens?—Yes.

8446. Did you think it risky to leave it so much in the hands of Flanagan?—We did not leave it so much in his hands. The guardians of the locality had a knowledge of the people.

8447. Did you look after his book?—The book may have been laid on the table, and there might not have been time to rule it. But I often called for it and could not get it.

8448. I do not find your signature, and therefore I take it you had not time to rule or examine the books, or they were not before you?—Yes, I would have ruled them if they came before me.

8449. It was giving a great power to the relieving officer to enable him to employ as many people?—I believe the people who got relief required it.

8450. Mr. Robinson.—In a great many instances I find that where you ruled certain cases to the workhouse they still contrived to get relief, and therefore the relieving officer is liable to be surcharged. On the 27th of May, for instance, a man was ordered to

SECRETARIES.
Mr. J. H.
Joyce, F.R.S.

the workhouse, and instead of that being carried out he got no relief.—Perhaps we might have said if the case was an urgent one it should be allowed.

8451. Mr. Redington.—Do you recollect the instructions given at the first meeting after you got leave to start on the relief works?—We gave the relieving officers a copy of the circular.

8452. Did you give instructions to them?—Yes.

8453. Did you tell them what works to start?—Yes, works of utility. We formed committees for the purpose and went to the several places.

8454. Did you hear a relieving officer swear that he got instructions to put on any able-bodied man who was able to work?—"Able-bodied destitute" man is what he should have said.

8455. Mr. Robinson.—I understood him to say that any able-bodied man willing to work was to get relief.—Well, he should have said "destitute." Where there was a very large family we allowed two or three to be employed.

8456. Mr. Redington.—When were the works scheduled?—I think on the 29th of April.

8457. Did you examine the list of applicants before the works were started?—We scheduled the roads and authorised the relieving officers to put on the destitute people, and bring the names up here, and to bring their books before every Board.

8458. Mr. Jackson.—The guardians pointed out the works considered necessary?—Yes.

8459. Would you think four piers within a distance of a mile necessary and advantageous to the electoral division?—Where are the four piers?

8460. There is one at Coal Park, one at Tom Corbett's house, another close to Mr. Blake's, within a mile, and another opposite Joyce's house, within fifty yards of that. Do you think these are necessary works or of advantage to the electoral division?—The way I answer that is by saying that I believe the guardians scheduled roads leading to the lake—

8461. The place that I mean is the quay opposite Corbett's house, with a steep road to it—a sliding road.—It falls about thirty degrees, but that is made a long long time. It might have been repaired, and a proper thing enough. I landed there twenty-five years ago.

8462. Well, do you know the other one at Mr. Joe Blake's?—I don't know that.

8463. Do you know there is another pier made within 100 yards of that—do you think these are necessary?—I can't say. All I know is that the works

were useful, and served the purposes for which they were intended.

8464. Mr. Redington.—As to the contracts, in what way were they given?—Well, at first we ordered the clerk to advertise for tenders in different districts, and we received tenders for India meal under £3 and several exceeding £6. Some of the Guardians suggested that it would be better to divide among the different shopkeepers applying, and to get them to supply at prices which would be regulated at say £5 a ton. That suggestion was carried out.

8465. Did the shopkeepers sign the contract?—Well, no; that was not the way. It was simply this, that anyone who would not supply the meal at £5 would not get it to supply.

8466. How would they supply it at £5 if there was no contract. Had the relieving officers to give tickets to the shopkeepers other than those who consented to supply it at £5?—The matter made itself right because the contract, so called, that is the right to supply the relief, was given to persons named at prices fixed, and it became quite easy afterwards when persons got tickets to find out those shopkeepers who supplied at the cheapest rate.

8467. Was a list of those shopkeepers retained?—The shopkeepers gave down their names and said that they would supply it at the £5.

8468. Are there no written contracts with the tenders you received in the first instance?—There are.

8469. And afterwards did all agree to supply it at the £5?—Yes; we had one man, Mr. Madden, who offered to give it for £5 15s.

8470. And after that list was made out had anyone else a right to an order?—No.

8471. Some of those contractors have very heavy claims against you?—Yes.

8472. Now how did you select those people; did you take everybody that offered?—Their names were taken with the undertaking that they would supply at the price named, and I may mention that some of them afterwards failed to supply it.

8473. I see there is a sum of £153 due in respect of the contract of Thomas O'Malley. Is he a shopkeeper?—He is.

8474. I also see that Edward King is one to whom a large amount is due, and in some cases the amounts due are very small. Had the relieving officers power to order the applicant for relief to go to any particular shopkeeper?—No, we instructed them to divide it equally.

Rev. Mark Engleton, c.c., sworn.

Rev. Mark
Engleton, c.c.

8474. Mr. Robinson.—You wish to give some evidence Father Engleton?—With reference to the statements made, or rather the questions asked as to the pier at Mr. Corbett's house, I may mention that it was an old landing place for boats, and this pier was merely repaired. Nothing but rough work that an ordinary man at 6d. a day would do. The pier at Mr. Blake's was of the same kind. There was an old pier there for landing turf, and it was simply improved with some stone. The works were done with the approval of the parish priest who considered them useful and necessary, and the works were scheduled.

8475. There were two other piers mentioned—Coal Park was one?—That was also an old pier, and it was simply improved.

8476. Mr. Jackson.—What I object to is that the money was expended on useless work, and surely this was useless?—No, it was not.

8477. Mr. Robinson.—Those piers were repaired?

Witness.—The piers were old, and all that was done was simply to make necessary repairs. It is quite obvious to anyone who sees them that such work as was done was useful.

8478. Mr. Redington.—Do you think that all the relief administered was required?—I think so, and I think it was fairly administered all things considered.

No doubt there were occasional cases of abuse, but considering the nature of the relief and the way in which the Act had to be administered, and considering the fact that it was a gigantic undertaking, it was remarkable, I think, that there were so few cases of absolute abuse, and remembering the work that is involved, it is surprising, I think, that the relieving officers were able to do it so perfectly. Of course I don't say that according to the strict letter of the law that all who received relief were entitled to it.

8479. Not speaking generally you consider that the relief given was required?—Yes.

8480. You heard of the large amounts that was spent during the administration of the relief. Are you of opinion that the expenditure should have been kept, or might have been kept, within the limits of the grants?—I think that quite possibly the amount might have been somewhat lessened, but the impression went abroad, and I think that the Local Government Board were accountable for it, that there was £39,000 going to be expended in relief, and the idea the people had was that there was a great amount of charity going to be given, and certainly a little abuse did take place in consequence of the people rushing into the works at the outset, the distress prevailing amongst them being very considerable indeed. It was repre-

sented, I think, unalloyedly, to the people that they never would have a penny of this to pay. Some defunct guardians stated that they never would have anything to pay.

8481. Can you say that the people imagined that the whole £30,000 was going to be devoted to this union?—No, not exactly that, but that a large share of the £40,000 would come here.

8482. Mr. Robinson.—In what way do you think that the Local Government Board were responsible?—I don't think that their instructions were quite sufficiently definite or clear. Of course any person trained and understanding the full force of language and the full force of words, could understand it quite well, but erroneous ideas were circulated amongst the people as to their liabilities in the matter and the manner in which the rates would be assessed, and this gave rise, in my opinion, to a certain amount of abuse in connection with the administration of relief. They thought they would have to pay absolutely nothing.

8483. You have heard the letter of instructions from the Local Government Board, and are you aware that that letter was not circulated amongst the relieving officers, or do you know that it was not so circulated?—Yes, it was not circulated.

8484. Well, do you think that if it had been circulated it would have curtailed the abuse?—It might have done so; but I think it would be very little that could be curtailed. I mean very little of the relief.

8485. Do you know the letter that I refer to?—Yes, it was the letter of the 20th April.

8486. Do you think that if it had been circulated it

would have had some effect?—The Inspector, Mr. Burke, explained the tenor of that letter; but I think that some did not understand it.

8487. You mean some of the relieving officers?—Yes.

8488. If greater care had been taken to obtain the aid of some intelligent relieving officers, do you think it would have been better?—I think that is so.

8489. If the relief staff had been larger could they have made more careful inquiries into each case?—That is quite possible.

8490. Do you think that all persons requiring relief were relieved?—Yes.

8491. So that you don't think that the abuse that did occur was in the way of any shortcomings of relief?—No; it would be rather in the way of excess. If the relieving officer had made a more strict scrutiny of the case, and the books written up week by week, it would have been better, I think. One assistant relieving officer had a journey of twenty miles to travel, and that involved a certain cost, which rendered it impossible that he could have attended as often as might be wished.

8492. Do you think that poverty in the union was rather more last summer than it was in 1879, 1880 or 1881?—I was not there, but I understood it was greater this past summer. The failure of the potato crops along the sea coast I can speak of, and it was as great as in 1881.

8493. Is there a good crop this year?—It is just as bad as last year, I am sorry to say. I speak of Letter-bricken electoral division especially.

Mr. Joseph Sparrow sworn.

8494. Mr. Robinson.—What electoral division do you reside in?—In Oughterard.

8495. Are you a pauper?—No, I am a ratepayer.

8496. Are you satisfied with the manner in which the relief is administered?—No; certainly a great many got relief who should not have got relief. In fact everybody about me got it.

8497. Are you aware of persons getting it who should not have got it?—Yes.

8498. Can you give their names?—I would prefer to give a few cases of those who ought to have got it; but it would be invidious to select the names. Most of these, however, who did get it did not require it. That is my distinct opinion.

8499. Are you acquainted with their circumstances?—Yes; they have been neighbours of mine for thirty years.

8500. What class of men do you refer to?—Well, they were men with cattle and sheep, and "gunbees" men.

8501. Can you give their names?—Well, one was Michael Murray of Keenan.

8502. And you object to his having got relief?—Yes, I object to having the rates increased by paying a man like that.

8503. Who is the relieving officer who gave the relief?—Mr. Flanagan, I think.

8504. Do you think that if the money had been distributed more carefully the Local Government Board grant would have sufficed for that district?—Yes.

8505. £410 was given by the Local Government Board?—Yes.

8506. And you think that would have been sufficient to have met the distress in that district?—Yes; I do not think there was exceptional distress about me.

8507. Mr. Redington.—The potato crop, I presume,

was not good?—Well, I would not say that. We have limestone land there.

8508. What is Murray's rent?—£3 a year, I think.

8509. And he received relief?—Yes, and I know that he had cattle, and that he sold dists all through the summer.

8510. How many head of cattle had he?—I cannot say.

8511. Mr. Robinson.—Had he these cattle, and was he selling them during the summer?—I have heard so, but I cannot say exactly of my own knowledge.

8512. The Rev. Mr. Engleton.—You are going then upon general report?—Yes.

8513. Mr. Redington.—Had this man sheep?—He often had sheep grazing with me.

8514. How many?—I cannot exactly remember, but he had some with me, and he often had with other neighbours, and he holds land from different people about there.

8515. Had he cattle or sheep at the time he got relief?—I know that he had cattle—more cattle than sheep. He had two milk cows, he had four or five bullocks and young calves, and I know that he sold the bullocks.

8516. The Rev. Mr. Engleton.—Is he an evicted tenant?—He is. He was evicted. He was joint tenant with his brother Tom, and Mr. O'Flaherty evicted them, so he could not get money from Tom, and Michael was put in as a caretaker until the redemption was out.

8517. How did he make the rent?—I cannot say.

8518. You expected to be a member of the Board last year?—No; when I was a member I did not attend.

8519. And you are not disappointed at not being elected?—No, for I would not attend.

Mark Walsh sworn.

Q. BENTHAM.
Mark Walsh.

8520. Mr. Robinson.—Are you a ratepayer?—Yes, I am one of this division of Oughterard.

8521. Are you satisfied with the way in which the relief was given in Oughterard?—Certainly not; I always spoke against it.

8522. Was it economically administered?—No.

8523. You believe that there were cases of abuse?—Yes, there were several in my own village, and I do not believe that there was one in the village to whom it was given, that it ought to have been given to, and in fact it was most unfairly given; those who did not want it got it just as it was going.

8524. Can you give the names of those who did not want it and who got it?—Yes, for instance, there was Terry Lyden, John Cottingham, Stephen Gavan, there was Hoffman and Michael Gavan, and there was Michael Walsh, and I do not think he wanted it very badly.

8525. Where do they live?—This is at Ballymore village.

8526. Are they holders of land?—Yes.

8527. Are they destitute?—No.

8528. Did they work on the relief works?—Yes, and some of them got relief without working at all.

8529. Did you ever represent to the relieving officers that these men were not destitute?—At the inquiry held at Coneyn I came to protest against it, and I mentioned the cases of persons who should not have got it.

8530. In Oughterard who received it who should not have got it?—Well, there was Thomas Routledge, and John McDonagh.

8531. What is Thomas Routledge?—He has a small farm of land and he lives in the town; he has more potatoes than many a man who is well off.

8532. What are his circumstances, what has he got?—He has two or three milk cows.

8533. Can you mention any other cases?—There is John McDonagh, he has a horse and cart; I may also say that there is a townland in Mahonmore, and there

are not more than about three that would want it there.

8534. How many received it?—There were fourteen or fifteen in it, and most of the people there worked on the relief works.

8535. And you object to pay the rates for these?—Yes.

8536. Do you think £410 would be sufficient to cover the expenses to meet the necessary relief in your district?—Yes, and less, to give it to those who want it only, and I may say that the way they did get it, it was no relief at all.

8537. Did they always get meal on their tickets?—No, I do not believe they did.

8538. Were you aware that they got anything else?—They told me that they got tea or anything they required; and some told me that they got drink, but I could not bring them up to prove it.

8539. Have these people got sheep and cattle?—Yes.

8540. Could they get sale for them?—I believe that they could, but of course it was a bad time for sale, and several of these people told me that they would never have taken relief but that they believed that they would never have to pay a shilling for it.

8541. Was there much distress prevailing?—There is no doubt that there was distress, but that is no reason why relief should be given to people who are well able to do without it.

8542. Rev. Mr. Coyne.—You mentioned a man named Lyden—who is he?—He is a man that came 2s. 6d. a day, and he received relief. He is so well off that I often tried and could not get him to come and work for me. He was almost always employed elsewhere at 2s. 6d. a day.

8543. Did you ask him to work for you?—I was often pressing him to work for me.

8544. Is it not a fact that you are boycotted?—Ah! no; you are wrong, sir. You thought to boycott me, but you failed, you did; and so will all the priests and ministers in Ireland.

Jerry Monaghan sworn.

Jury.
Monaghan.

8545. Mr. Robinson.—You are a shopkeeper in Oughterard?—Yes, for thirty-six years.

8546. How much is due to you for the supply of relief?—About £30.

8547. Did you ever give anything but meal?—No; at one time we gave it at sixpence a cwt. less than we paid for it. We lost upon it.

8548. Did any of these people get anything but meal?—No.

8549. Do you know if they ever did?—No, not more than this. There might be a balance of a shilling or 1s. 3d. after the half-cwt., and they might be given a pound of sugar or tea. I never saw the country in such a state, and if I was a relieving officer myself I do not know how I would undertake the case. I know that I did not see for thirty years the country in such a state, and I must say, I think, on the whole, the relief was fairly given. I know some of the greatest grainers here that went to the fair and could not sell, though they went to five fairs. Many a man might have a couple of cows, but if he could not sell them, what good was it?

8550. Would you consider that man destitute?—Yes.

8551. Would you give relief to every man that brings cattle to the fair, and cannot sell them?—If he has not any provision. We had an investigation here for three days. Dr. Reddie put questions to the relieving officer, and the question arose about giving relief to a man with a cow and six sheep, but the doctor said if that man died between the time you refused him and the next day you would be tried for manslaughter.

8552. If a man had a cow or a sheep and went to five or six fairs, and could not sell them, wouldn't he be destitute before the world?—There may have been a couple of cases of abuse, but there were not twenty in the two parishes I would not give relief to. Teddy Lyden is a pauper, and John Cottingham owes me money and can't pay. There is £1,000 due to me now, and you can scarcely imagine the poverty that prevails.

James Coyne sworn.

James Coyne.

8553. Do you know Owen King, of Bore?—Yes.

8554. How many cattle has he?—Eight.

8555. How many sheep?—Seventy.

8556. Now, Denis Keane—did you give him relief?—Yes.

8557. How many cattle has he?—Nine head of cattle.

8558. How many sheep?—About forty-nine or fifty.

8559. Has he horses?—He has a horse and cart. He is a bit of a road contractor.

8560. Do you know Martin O'neil?—Yes.

8561. Did you give him relief?—Yes, he was working at the works.

8562. What cattle has he?—Twenty-eight head of cattle.

8564. And sheep?—Seventy sheep.
 8565. Michael Kane—did he get relief?—Yes.
 8566. What property has he?—Thirteen head of cattle.
 8567. How many sheep?—Over forty. They have another farm about two miles away from me.
 8568. Have they a horse?—No horse.
 8569. Tom Cane, did he get relief?—Yes.
 8570. What stock has he?—Fourteen head of cattle.
 8571. And sheep?—Fifty sheep.
 8572. And a horse?—Yes.
 8573. Michael Coyne (Black), how much has he?—Twelve head of cattle and sheep.
 8574. How many sheep?—Fifty.
 8575. Any horses?—Yes, a horse.
 8576. Now you know the village of Tiernakill?—Yes.
 8577. You know Pat Joyce?—Yes.
 8578. How many heads of cattle has he?—Fifteen.
 8579. How many sheep?—About thirty, and two horses.
 8580. You know the Killian family?—Yes.
 8580a. Did they get relief?—Yes.
 8581. How many head of cattle have they?—Eight or nine.
 8582. And sheep?—About forty.
 8583. Did Martin Wallace get relief?—Yes.
 8584. How many head of cattle has he?—Eight.
 8585. And sheep?—I could not say how many sheep.
 8586. Has he ten?—Yes.
 8587. Did Martin Joyce get relief?—Yes.
 8588. How many head of cattle has he?—Nine head of cattle.
 8589. How many sheep?—About thirty.
 8590. Tom Coyne, did he get relief?—Yes.
 8591. How many cattle has he?—Eight.
 8592. And sheep?—Near twenty.
 8593. Anthony Sarsfield, did he get relief?—Yes.

8594. How many cattle had he?—Thirteen or fourteen.
 8595. How many sheep?—Over seventy or eighty.
 8596. James Halloran, of Maam, how many cattle has he?—About twelve or thirteen.
 8597. And sheep?—About twenty.
 8598. You worked at these relief works and got relief?—Yes.
 8599. Did you want it, or could you do without it?—I could have done without it, but when I seen how it was going I went for it.
 8600. How many head of cattle had you?—Eleven.
 8601. And how many sheep?—Near fifty I had.
 8602. Now one of the roads on which the relief work was done was a road leading up to the house of one of the guardians for his own accommodation?—Yes.
 8603. What is the name of the guardian?—Michael O'Malley. The road goes from the river to his house.
 8604. Mr. Eslington.—Does that road lead beyond the house?—No, it stops there.
 8605. Who told you to work?—Mr. Michael O'Malley.
 8606. The guardian?—He did, sir, and I was paid by ticket.
 8607. Rev. Mr. Eslington.—Who filled the ticket for you?—The relieving officer.
 8608. What did you get for the ticket?—Six shillings worth of meal.
 8609. Mr. Eslington.—Who handed you that ticket?—Pat Malley, of Maam. I worked on the road, and some of my neighbours provided potatoes of Mr. O'Malley.
 8610. Mr. O'Malley, r.l.c.—Who ordered them to go on my head?—I don't know, but they went.
 8610a. Rev. Mr. Eslington.—You swear that Martin Cane got relief?—Yes; he was working; and the shopkeeper told me he got relief; and I swear he got it.

O'NEILL AND
JAMES COYNE.

Michael O'Malley, r.l.c., sworn.

8611. Mr. Robinson.—You wish to make a statement?—Yes. With reference to this road which the men laid out, it would be very unfair if the impression were allowed to pass that the work was solely, or at all, done in my interest. There are several villages on the side of the road there, and the work done was partially for the accommodation of three townlands in the valley. It only reached near to my house to facilitate the work. There was only two days' work entirely. There was at the time not a shilling's worth of labour to do in reeking; and while I was absent from home they had a few little ridges of potatoes moulded, and that was done without my knowledge.
 8612. Mr. Eslington.—Did you pay for it?—These

men volunteered to do it, and it is only what a shilling's worth of labour would have done.
 8613. You did not pay them in cash?—No; I gave them food.
 8614. Mr. Robinson.—Were they paid in relief?—I gave all the men who were on it their dinner—I gave it to all the men.
 8615. Mr. Eslington.—Does the road go beyond your door?—There is a branch road there which I should explain.
 8616. The road on which these men worked and which it appears goes to your house, does it go beyond your house?—No, not up to my house, for it stops just before it comes to it.

Mr. Michael
O'Malley,
r.l.c.

Peter King sworn.

8617. Mr. Robinson.—You are a large taxpayer?—Yes.
 8618. A previous witness gave the names of certain persons having cattle and who received relief—are you able to say if that was correct?—To the best of my belief it was. With reference to what the last witness has said I can only state that the road now completed is up to his hall-door, and is only for his own purpose completed.
 8619. Mr. O'Malley, r.l.c.—Is it scheduled?—I do not know.
 8620. Mr. Robinson.—Do you consider that the relief was fairly administered?—Certainly not; it is a misapplication of the relief money to be giving it to persons who had so little need of it.
 8621. Mr. Eslington.—Would a grant of £50 have been sufficient for the division of Carl?—Indeed it would.

There was a misapplication of the funds to the best of my belief. Half of the fellows in Letterbrickane who got the relief did not need it.
 8622. Mr. Robinson.—£185 was spent in Letterbrickane?—Yes (referring to book); and I see here names of persons who certainly were not fit subjects for relief. I see Pat Herrihy, Pat Kerrigan, and Dan Kerrigan, none of them require it; then I see John Mellis down—I saw him some years ago buying bullocks—10 bullocks, and to give him relief was a misapplication of the relief funds.
 8623. For what reason?—He is well off. He has a son employed by Mr. Winbolt, and who is getting £1 a week. He has only himself and his wife and son, who is getting £1 a week, and he has two cows.
 8624. He got £2 10s. 6d.?—Yes.
 8625. What other case can you mention?—There is

Peter King

Commissioner. John Flaherty, action. He has a horse and sheep and cattle, and a son employed on the dairy.

Pat King.

8626. He got £3 6s 6d. — Yes; then there is a case of John Burke. He has 80 sheep actually; Pat Kerrigan (Ned), has a horse and cart and a publican's license, and he has a post car. Pat Gibbons should not have got relief. He has a son employed by Mr. Winbolt, and besides the man is well off. He has only himself and wife and about 50 sheep, and five or six head of cattle.

8627. Mr. Redington. — Has he no children? — One girl married.

8628. There is a case of Michael Coyne? — Yes; I object to his having got relief—he is in employment at 15s or 30s a week.

8629. Anyone else? — Yes. Here is Austin Hastings; he does not require relief. He is a tenant of mine, and he is employed also. There is another man, Tony Coyne, who has about three head of cattle and thirty sheep. You know such a man should not be on relief at all.

8630. Rev. Mr. Engleton. — There would appear to be about nine or ten out of these cases on your property? — Yes, and there is more than that—there is twenty.

8631. What rent do you pay for this property of yours? — I will give my answer as I like, and not according to you. I don't see what right you have to usurp the authority of the Commissioners.

8632. I want to show the rent he pays and the rent he exacts. Is it a fact you pay only £25 a year and get £120 for it? — I don't see why I am to answer such a question.

Mr. Redington. — You need not answer it.

8632a. Rev. Mr. Engleton. — Do you know John McNeil? — Yes, well.

8633. And you say he ought not to get relief? — Yes.

8634. Because he has a son earning and because a few years ago he sold cattle? — Because I do not think he was destitute.

8635. Is not the son living on his own account? — No.

8636. Mr. Redington. — Does he live in the same house? — He did live with him, and he got 13s. or 20s. a week from Mr. Winbolt.

8637. Where does he live now? — With the Winbolts for the past six months, and he used to come backwards and forwards.

8638. Do you know if the father gets any of his earnings? — To the best of my belief he does.

8639. What age is he? — A middle-aged man between forty and sixty.

Rev. Mr. Engleton. — Is his wife very old? — No, she is just what you might call a spinster.

8640. Do you object to Pat Gibbons getting relief? — I do; there is not a more comfortable man in the whole townland.

8641. Is it a fact that you had something to do with some of Mr. Tuohy's potatoes? — I had.

8642. Did you give any to Pat Gibbons? — I am not sure that I am bound to answer your question at all.

8643. Did you? — I am not bound to answer that question.

8644. Mr. Redington. — We do not see any reason why you should not answer.

8645. Rev. Mr. Engleton. — Did you give any to Gibbons? — I do not think I did.

8646. Will you swear you did not? — To the best of my belief I did not.

8647. Or Austin Hastings? — I can't say—can you swear I did.

8648. Mr. Redington. — Answer the question? — I can't recollect.

8649. Rev. Mr. Engleton. — I think you expressed your opinion as to how this relief was to be met? — I did not know if it was by a grant from the Government, or if we would have to pay the whole.

8650. Did you understand that this was to be borne by the whole electoral divisions? — No.

8651. Did you say it was to be a free grant? — No, I never did.

8652. On your oath, did you ever say to any one that a penny of it would be put on the ratepayers? — On my oath, no.

8653. On your oath, did you ever say it to Martin Case? — On my oath, I did not.

8654. You never did? — I have answered the question before.

8655. How long are you an ex-officio guardian? — That does not matter. I am the largest ratepayer except Lord Ardillon.

8656. Mr. Redington. — Did you attend the meetings of the Board? — No; I had no influence here.

8657. Did you speak to the relieving officers, warning them? — No.

John Geoghagan sworn.

John Geoghagan.

8658. Mr. Robinson. — You object to the way in which this relief was administered? — Yes; I object to pay the rate.

8659. Why? — Because some people got relief who were better able to pay than myself, and I am the largest ratepayer in the union except the landlords.

8660. In what electoral divisions do you pay rates? — Oughterard and Letterfin.

8661. Can you corroborate the evidence of Mark Walsh? — Yes, I can say the very same.

8662. And do you consider that the Government grant would have been sufficient to meet the distress? — Yes, I think so. I do not think the people thought there would have been anything to pay.

8663. Do you know any cases that struck you as not entitled to receive relief? — I know a friend of my own, Tom Geoghagan.

8664. Did he get relief? — Yes.

8665. What are his circumstances? — He is a farmer who never wanted anything.

8666. What is his rent? — £7 10s.

8667. Has he any cattle? — I know he has.

8668. Do you know another case? — Yes. There is Pat Geoghagan.

8669. What are his circumstances? — He has land, and pays £7 10s. rent.

8703. Has he cattle? — Yes.

8701. You think he was not destitute? — Yes, I am sure of it. I know a good many more too, and they would never have gone to the work if they thought they would have to pay for it.

8702. They thought the whole thing was gratuitously given? — Yes. Another thing I complain of is, that they made roads that were quite useless up to guardians' doors.

8703. Mr. Redington. — What guardians? — Well, Robert Monks, for one, of Drumsinniskill, and another to Stephen O'Quinn's house—a place where there are five houses.

8704. Do you know any other cases where roads were made up to guardians' houses? — No.

QUITTORAINS
—
THOMAS KING.

8748. *Rev. Mr. Eslington.*—Does it lead to a graveyard?—It does, but the graveyard is off the road. It is between his house and this road. It is fifty perches from this road. Why not build one into the graveyard if that was the object? He had his own horse there working at this road, and at that time they were getting relief.

8749. *Mr. Robinson.*—Were these people who were on this road working, paid by relief?—Yes.

8750. *Are you sure?*—Yes, quite sure; I saw them.

8751. *Mr. Eslington.*—Did you see them working on the part beyond the graveyard?—I saw the tracks, and the road is built beyond the graveyard, fifty or sixty yards up to the house.

Rev. Mr. Eslington.—No, that part was not touched.

8752. *Mr. Eslington.*—Do you know, of your own

knowledge, was the road repaired from the place where the graveyard road branches off to the house?—I did not walk it.

8753. *Did you see it?*—I did, and I know there is only a little bit of the road—the length of the table—to the graveyard that is repaired.

8754. *Rev. Mr. Eslington.*—Will you swear that?—Well, I know it is not finished.

8755. *Mr. Eslington.*—The point is, was the road made beyond the graveyard road—to the house—can you swear that?—Well, I cannot swear it, positively.

Rev. Mr. Eslington.—Then you should not swear it at all.

8756. *Who were the horse who were working?*—John Joyce, two John Joyces, and Martin Joyce (Harry), because's head.

THOMAS FRANCIS JOYCE, P.L.O., SWORN.

Mr. THOMAS
FRANCIS JOYCE,
P.L.O.

8757. *Mr. Robinson.*—You have heard about this road; has it been made or repaired to your house or your father's house?—You might as well say that the Midland Great Western Railway was made for the accommodation of Dublin Castle as to say that. It leads to two townlands, Killybeg and Mountbrown West, and also to the burying ground, that was enclosed under the Burials Act by this Board.

8758. *And was the road continuing from the graveyard road made by the relief work?*—Never.

8759. *Who was it made by?*—My father, twenty years and more.

8760. *Have you any evidence to offer as to the persons who received this relief?*—Except to say that all who got it were entitled to it, for all were destitute.

8761. *Do you think a man with fifty or one hundred sheep or cattle has a right to be relieved?*—That depends on the circumstances of the party.

8762. *The relief is only applicable, properly, to persons absolutely destitute; would you consider a man with fifty or one hundred sheep absolutely destitute?*—No.

8763. *Then you do not think such a man entitled to relief?*—Well, in the early part of the season there was no sale for stock.

8764. *Would it be fair to refuse to relieve a man with 100 sheep?*—If he was steeped in debt to the shopkeepers, and with no credit, and could get no meal on credit, his position would be such as to entitle him to relief.

8765. *Were there any cases of abuse?*—No.

8766. *Then every single man you believe was absolutely destitute?*—Yes. The people are driven into the wretched bogs, and the lands out of which a man might live are in the occupation of the landlords. The land is spent out from over-cropping. This year potatoes are worse than last year. I do not know what the guardians would have done if it was not for the Act. The works were suspended a few days and these people, sub-tenants of Mr. King here, came over to my place and presented a miserable and ghastly appearance, and they told me that they were

sent by him to intimidate me into giving them relief.

8767. *What would have become of these people if they had not been relieved?*—A great many of them would have died.

8768. *Do you think that many men with 100 sheep and eight cattle any, would have died if they had not got the relief that was available?*—Well, I think he would be a great fool if he did not condemn the cattle himself.

8769. *Mr. Eslington.*—Do you know Pat Kerrigan (Ned)?—Yes.

8770. *Do you know his condition?*—He is a poor man.

Rev. Mr. Eslington.—The shopkeeper who supplies him in Westport is his creditor for £40.

8771. *Mr. Eslington.*—Do you think Michael Lydon who sold potatoes during the relief, was destitute?—His sister was away in America and is now back, and the money he has is here.

8772. *Do you believe he was destitute?*—Yes.

8773. *Do you know Pat O'Brien?*—He is more comfortable than Lydon.

8774. *Do you know Martin Joyce (Harry)?*—He is a poor man.

8775. *Mr. King.*—Could you consider a man poor who wears cotton in an old skin coat and leggings?—Yes, he might be.

8776. *Mr. Eslington.*—Do you swear that that man, Martin Joyce (Harry) is destitute?—Yes, that is to say I believe that he was entitled to relief at the time he got it—and I wish to say that I and my father are ratenagers in Letterfree division—my father in the largest in the division, and I was interested in this matter myself, more than many who came forward, to keep down the taxes.

8777. *Mr. Robinson.*—Did you attend the meetings of the Board?—Yes.

8778. *Why was there not a better scrutiny of the books?*—Well, each man in his own electoral division was very particular about it, and I used to go to the relieving officer myself, and check him; I examined the books in his own house every week. My valuation is £22 15s.

Mr. ROBERT M'KEEN SWORN.

Mr. ROBERT
M'KEEN.

8779. *Mr. Robinson.*—What electoral division do you reside in?—In Letterfree division.

8780. *What evidence do you wish to give?*—Well, it is more with regard to the undue or under giving of relief, than ever doing it that I want to speak.

8781. *You don't think enough was given?*—That is what I consider, as to a certain class of people. Father Eslington mentioned Duke's grant of potatoes—now Mr. King and I were associated in the distribution of these potatoes. We went to Glengnabla and consulted some of the oldest men there on whose

we could rely, and we decided upon the most needy people for the seed potatoes. Then when the relief works were opened these unfortunate persons were refused any relief.

8782. *Mr. Eslington.*—Could you give the names of any who were refused relief?—Well, I do not know whether it is advisable. Of course we all understand the amount of influence and persecution exercised from time to time. But I have the names and could give them.

8783. *We cannot attach the same importance to the*

statement you make without the names?—Well, it would expose those men to persecution for giving the information.

8788. Mr. Robinson.—We do not wish to force you to give any names, but it must be obvious to you that we cannot attach much importance to a statement of the kind you make unless it is supported by the names?—I was first home for a week, and on my return I met one man in particular whom I knew from my own knowledge and experience and information, was in a very destitute state, and he told me himself he had not any seed to put in the ground, and that what seed he had he was obliged to eat in And, though outside my district, I took on myself to give him some seed, and when the works opened at Mason, this man told me that he was refused work.

8789. Mr. Robinson.—What was his name?—Casidy was his name.

8790. Will you give any others?—Well, I could give their names.

8791. Do you know as a matter of fact if that man, whose name you mention, was refused or not?—To shorten the business, when I went home, I got so many instances of the same sort, that I considered it right to write to the Local Government Board and lay the matter before them, and I believe these men were eventually all taken on the relief works.

8792. Finally?—Yes, it appeared that parties had some objection to Mr. King.

8793. Practically then they got relief owing to your interference?—Yes, and the relief he got was very bad and inefficient.

8794. Mr. Redington.—Was his name Michael Casidy?—Yes.

8795. Well he got relief from the very beginning. On the 8th of May he got 4s, then 5s. on the 15th; then 5s. on the 22nd, 5s. on the 29th; nothing then for three weeks, and then 3s. 5s., 4s., and 4s.—Well, the time I speak of would be about the latter end of April, that he got the potatoes from me.

8796. The Rev. Mr. Eggleston.—It is a remarkable fact that this man Casidy was the very first relieved—Bridget Walsh was the only person before him?—That does not affect the case. Another man was very destitute and had a large family lying well. He applied for work for his son, the only member of the family who could work, and the answer he got from the board he applied to was that as soon as he would take his children from a certain objectionable place he would get the work.

8797. Mr. Redington.—What is the man's name?—John Coyne, of Gillingham.

8798. He ultimately got the relief?—Yes.

8799. How many children has he got?—About eight in family.

8800. I see a John Coyne who got relief the first week, and then it was stopped?—There are two; this is John Coyne (Joker).

8801. Well, they were both relieved the first week, but neither after that?—Anyhow when he went to apply that was what they said. I could give a great number of cases. A man named Michael Wallace, whom he applied, the answer he got was that "he had not all the Champions eaten yet."

8802. Mr. Redington.—Was he refused?—Yes, but afterwards he got it.

8803. Where does he live?—Letterhucknham.

8804. Rev. Mr. Eggleston.—I am sorry that you should have introduced this unpleasant subject at this inquiry. It is a great pity that anything before you, gentlemen, should assume a religious controversial aspect. This witness has done it, I regret to say. He says that the Board answered this man by saying that when his children were taken from a certain objectionable place he would get relief. (To the witness).—Will you please to state the place?—I do not see why I should answer your question.

Mr. Redington.—He did not mention the place.

Rev. Mr. Eggleston.—No, and if you wish I will let the matter so far drop there. (To witness).—You mentioned "persecution"—what is the "persecution" to which you alluded?—You have an idea of it, and so have I. You know well, sir, and do not show me out, it is better for you not.

8805. Rev. Mr. Eggleston.—You commenced by saying that Casidy was refused relief?—I tell you what Casidy told me.

8806. And you said Coyne was not relieved?—Not at the time.

8807. And Wallace?—Not for a time.

8808. Then you bring up three cases, in each of which relief has been given, and in which the persons appear on reference to the books to have been amongst the very first who were relieved?—I could give forty cases.

8809. Let us have them. We complain of a little excess having occurred—you complain that there was not enough?—I do not wish to bring men's names before your notice, for we know how you could handle them.

8810. Mr. Redington.—Casidy received relief the first week, and there is a Michael Wallace who only got relief on the 26th of June and the 31st of July?—That would be after the settlement.

Mr. A. N. Cooney, L.D.S., sworn.

Mr. A. N.
Cooney L.D.S.

8806. Mr. Robinson.—When did you last attend at the Board?—On the 27th of May.

8807. Was the Relief Act in operation at that date?—Yes, and had been for some time.

8808. Were the relieving officers' books made up at that time?—No, they were never, as a matter of fact, satisfactorily made up.

8809. Were they submitted to the guardians on that day?—There may have been one or two, but many of the relieving officers did not attend, though they were specially called on to do so, and in fact the whole thing was in a very unsatisfactory state.

8810. Do you know if any lists were submitted to the guardians?—No, it appeared to me that the whole thing was left in the hands of outside parties. We had an informal meeting, to which Mr. Plauson stated that when the works commenced numbers went on the works without any authority from any one, and it seemed to be thought that any man who gave his labour ought to be put on and paid for it. I read and explained the circular here, and called attention

to the fact that the rates would have to bear the surplus charge.

8811. Did the guardians place any check on these proceedings after you drew attention to the fact?—I am certain they did on the 27th when they suspended the works. I told the chairman to direct the relieving officers to relieve extreme cases.

8812. When next did you attend?—Early in June.

8813. Were the books written up?—No.

8814. Were the lists submitted to the guardians?—A few books, perhaps, but practically there was no improvement. That was on the 15th or 16th I attended.

8815. The guardians were exercising no supervision?—These were practically in the hands of the relieving officers.

8816. What was the difficulty about looking into the case respecting relief?—One excuse was that the relieving officers did not give the accounts to the clerk. In fact it was impossible to get an account of the amount expended, or who was giving the relief, for we could not get accurate returns. A case arose which illustrated

GUINNESS
Mr. A. E.
Conry, Esq.

what was occurring. On the 16th of July a petition was lodged by a man named Walsh, requesting that work done several weeks before be put on the books. I examined the case. The man was a ganger, and from my investigation I arrived at the conclusion that he was not a fit subject for relief, notwithstanding which the guardians put him on.

8816. Mr. Bealington.—They ordered payment 1—Yes, and the work for which they ordered payment was done five weeks before that, and they ordered payment for that and for two weeks afterwards.

8817. Did you attend any meeting when the books

were written up?—Some books would be, but up to the day I left not all of them.

8818. Then from first to last it was in the hands of the relieving officers?—Yes.

8819. The numbers fluctuated very much 1—Yes; it depended really upon who was the chairman. When Mr. Joyce, the chairman, presided, it was reduced; but he was not always in the chair, nor the vice-chairman, and when any other presided it went up.

8820. Did you hear of relief being administered without the labour test 1—Yes; the guardians seemed to think the labour test was not necessary.

The inquiry was adjourned till next morning.

Aug. 25, 1886

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1886.

OUCHTHERARD UNION.

The Commissioners resumed the Inquiry in the Boardroom of the Workhouse.

Mr. Patrick Mollay, Relieving Officer, sworn.

Mr. Patrick
Mollay

8821. Mr. Bealington.—You are a relieving officer 1—Yes.

8822. In what division were you concerned during the administration of the Poor Relief Act 1—Cong division.

8823. Well, was there much distress in that district 1—There was an immense deal of distress.

8824. Describe what happened when you had applications for relief under this Act; what did you do when people applied to you for relief 1—I made inquiries about the parties whom I did not know. I inquired about their circumstances, and I depended upon what respectable people told me. I myself knew about most of the people in the district personally.

8825. Did you put any people on the roads upon which men worked for the relief 1—The gangers came to me, and upon what they said I consented that certain persons should go upon the road. Well, I didn't do that without making inquiries as to whether they were destitute or not.

8826. Did you get a list of the works upon which the men were to be engaged 1—I was present here in the boardroom when some of the works to be undertaken were appointed, and I got instructions from some of the guardians.

8827. Did you get instructions as to Corbett's pier 1—No.

8828. Did you get any instructions about Blake's 1—I knew that pier.

8829. Are the two just these 1—Yes.

8830. Are they within fifty yards of each other 1—No.

8831. Were you told to have them repaired 1—Yes.

8832. Who told you to have them repaired 1—It was decided here at the board of guardians, I believe, but I was not told there as to what I was to do.

8833. Did the guardians tell you outside of the boardroom 1—Yes.

8834. Whatever work was done in connexion with these piers was it in your opinion a useful work 1—Yes.

8835. Do you know Catepark pier 1—It is outside my district.

8836. Were not these piers in existence before you had anything to say to them 1—Yes, they were only repaired, and I must say that the work done there was very much required, because there is a good deal of traffic for limestone and turf to these piers.

8837. Did you see ever work during this relief without your permission 1—Nobody did.

8838. When did you first make up your application and report book 1—I was appointed on the 30th June, the other man was appointed here at the commencement of May, his name is Thornton.

8839. Then you were not here all the time 1—No.

8840. So you only had a month's work to look after 1—Yes, and a few days.

8841. And you simply carried on the works which you found before you 1—Yes.

8842. Did the distress increase in July 1—Yes, I believe it did.

8843. Do you think that was the worst time of the year 1—Well, it was bad at all times, but I think it was worse then.

8844. Had you occasion to increase the numbers in receipt of relief 1—I had.

8845. Did you go to the house of the persons who were applying for relief under this Act 1—Yes, I went to some—that is, to some that I had a suspicion about; if I had any suspicion about a man whose circumstances I was not quite sure that he was destitute, I would go and make inquiries myself as to his place, but in nearly all the cases I knew the persons myself, and it was not necessary to make personal inquiry.

8846. Did people get relief who were the owners of half a dozen head of cattle 1—Well, I do not say but they did; I myself inquired of the shopkeepers and got the best information I could, but of course I might have been misled; however, I do not think I was.

8847. If a man had twenty or thirty sheep would you give him relief supposing he owed money to the shopkeepers 1—Yes, if I considered that he was destitute, and he would be that if he was refused any credit by the shopkeepers.

8848. Did you give relief to any man who paid £25 a year rent 1—There was no man paying in my district anything like that, I know, got relief.

8849. No man paying £25 in Cong division 1—No, not £25.

8850. Mr. Robinson.—What do you understand by a destitute man 1—A poor man—that he has no means.

8851. If a man was in debt, would you consider him destitute, no matter what he had 1—Of course, it would depend; he would be destitute if he had some-

thing and could get nothing for it, and if he was refused credit.

8853. Even though he had cattle and calves?—Yes.

8854. Well, if a man had horses and cart and was refused credit, would you give him relief?—I would give him relief if he had nothing to sustain him, and such a man would be starving, in my opinion.

8854. Would you not take the amount of value he

had in his possession into consideration, or would you take his debts into consideration?—His cattle would be of no use to him if he could not dispose of them.

8855. So it comes to this, that if a man was in debt, although he might have cattle, and even a horse and cart, you would consider him destitute and give him relief, simply because he could not get credit?—Yes, that is my opinion.

GUARDIANS.
—
Mr. Patrick
Malley

Michael Sargfield, Relieving Officer, sworn.

8856. Mr. Robinson.—Did you get any notice from Mr. Gilmore to attend this inquiry?—Yes.

8857. When did he ask you to attend?—Yesterday.

8858. Why did you not attend then?—Well, I did not get the letter until yesterday, and I met Father Martin, and when I met him he told me that I would be late, and then I thought I would go to-day.

8859. You were temporary relieving officer in charge of the administration of relief during the administration of the Act?—Yes.

8860. In what division?—In Clonbar division.

8861. It is a very poor division?—Yes.

8862. What is the poorest part of it?—I cannot tell you that.

8863. Do you think that the part up in the mountain is very poor?—Yes.

8864. Is there much employment there?—No, there is very little.

8865. Did Lord Ardilaun hold property in that division?—Yes.

8866. Is he a good employer?—Sometimes there is work going on there, and there are men working on the farm always.

8867. Were you a temporary relieving officer before?—Never.

8868. What instructions were you given by whoever gave you the appointment?—That those who were destitute were to be relieved.

8869. Who gave you these instructions?—The guardians.

8870. Were the instructions verbal?—Yes.

8871. And were they given at the meeting of the Board?—Yes. I got them first from Father Martin. I was not here the day I was appointed, and then when I came over here I got my instructions from the Board.

8872. The instructions you received were to relieve persons who were destitute?—Yes.

8873. Were you to put people upon the works when you considered to be destitute?—Yes, they appointed the roads, and I was to take people who were destitute and put them on them.

8874. The guardians fixed the roads upon which the works were to be conducted?—Yes.

8875. Did they tell you how much relief to give?—Yes.

8876. In each case?—Yes.

8877. What was the amount?—Oh, a week to all persons who worked on the roads.

8878. And what were the hours within which the people worked, who were appointed each day?—From nine until six in the evening.

8879. Who was responsible for seeing that work carried out?—I was to go twice a day, and the gangmen were to be there.

8880. Did you consider that all the persons you employed to go on the works were in a destitute condition?—I know that they were very much in need of relief.

8881. Did the gangmen get better pay than the

others?—Yes, and I gave the appointment to the poorest.

8882. Did these gangmen return the list to you of the people who worked?—Yes, and I came myself upon the works twice a day.

8883. They returned you the list?—Yes.

8884. How often did you pay them?—Every week.

8885. Had you any assistance?—No, except the gangmen.

8886. And had you to fill all the tickets for relief?—Yes, and the gangmen.

8887. And had the gangmen authority to sign the tickets?—No.

8888. Then did they fill in the tickets with an account of the men named?—Yes.

8889. And then you signed every such ticket?—Yes.

8890. Are you sure that the gangmen never signed any tickets themselves?—I do not think they did.

8891. Could they have done it without your knowledge?—No; I was always there, and I knew what they did.

8892. Had you the tickets in your possession?—Yes; in fact they never left my possession until they were signed.

8893. So that the gangmen could not have signed them?—No.

8894. As to your inquiries with reference to the applicants for relief, what steps did you take?—In many cases I knew the circumstances of the people myself, and the inquiry was not necessary; in other cases I first went to the shopkeepers to see about those persons who applied, and I inquired as to how they stood with reference to them, and in a great number of cases I found that they would not give them credit at all, because they were completely sunk in debt.

8895. Did you think that the fact of getting no credit qualified some of these people for relief?—Yes, for some would be absolutely without food unless they could get credit, and the times just then were very bad.

8896. In the case of persons who had cattle, did you make inquiries as to their circumstances?—Yes, sometimes, from the permanent relieving officer.

8897. Did you know the condition of the people in poor division and their circumstances very well?—Yes, I almost know every one of them.

8898. Did you give relief to any persons who were employed upon other charitable works?—No.

8899. Did you find out whether any of the persons who received relief were working with Lord Ardilaun?—Yes.

8900. And were there some such cases of persons working for him who got relief?—Yes, but it must have been only for a very short time.

8901. Are there not some other employers there?—Mr. Lynch, for instance?—Well, he does not employ any more, in fact I do not see that he has any labourer at work for him.

8902. Did you hear the evidence of the witnesses who said that he thought that if a man was very heavily in

Michael
Sargfield.

Overshadowed.

Michael
Sarsfield

delt he required relief even though he had cattle, and did you relieve persons upon that principle?—I carried out my instructions; I gave relief to persons when I thought required it, and any person who would not get relief and who could not sell his cattle, I would not let such a person suffer.

8903. Am I to take it that your theory was, that a man who did not get credit was entitled to relief?—Yes; if he had no other means of living I would give him relief for a week or a fortnight, until affairs would come round.

8904. Did you give relief to people who had a large amount of cattle?—No, indeed very few in my country have a large amount of cattle.

8905. Did you give relief to people with three or four pigs, for instance?—I do not think I did, for it is very few have pigs, and were able to support them; indeed the wonder was that they were able to support themselves, let alone the pigs.

8906. And if they had cattle would you have given them relief, for it has been sworn that some persons, having several head of cattle and several sheep, got relief?—Well, if they could not get sale for them and had no provisions, they would be as destitute as another man.

8907. Did you administer the relief as conscientiously as you could?—Yes.

8908. Did any persons go on the works without authority from you?—None.

8909. I see that a very large number—1,619 persons—got relief at Clonbur in one week; how did you knock off so many from June 8th—from 1,619 down to 561—the week following?—Well, I can only say that when the turf commenced to be cut some of them got employment. I had known many of them to go nine miles to cut turf, and that night be the cause of the numbers falling down.

8910. What time did they go to cut the turf?—I could not say that; the book will tell, and the falling off of the numbers shows that they got employment somewhere else.

8911. How long were they generally employed at that work?—Some for a fortnight, some three weeks, and some a month.

8912. And some only a week?—Well, just so; according as they got employment.

8913. I see that the numbers were up from 561 to about 1,944—would you account for that by saying that they came back from turf-cutting?—Yes, and that they were made in need of relief as it was getting out the summer time.

8914. Have they a good potato crop this year in your division?—Well, pretty fair.

8915. Mr. Jackson.—You know this district very well?—Yes.

8916. Would you consider that when a man was earning 3s. or 10s. or 8s. a week, that he would be a proper person to get relief?—I would if he was destitute.

8917. But could such a man be considered destitute?—That would depend upon circumstances.

8918. Would you consider that a man earning from Lord Ardilaun 9s. a week, would you consider any such man or any member of his family ought to be destitute?—I say that would be according to what his means would be.

8919. Cannot you answer a simple question. If he was paid every Saturday night 9s., and that came into his family, would you consider that he was destitute?—I think so, if a family had no other means, and I will give you my reasons for it. A man who goes out at six o'clock in the morning and earns, as you say, 9s. a week, and has a large family, he will remain there until six o'clock in the evening, and the child must go out there and bring him his breakfast and dinner, and then there is the going there and the coming back, and there is very little left, and anyone who knows the country knows that many such a man

at a time like that, with nothing left or little to support his family, would be indeed very destitute.

8920. And you consider such a man destitute and entitled to relief?—Yes, I think he would, and I am sure of it if he had no other means.

8921. But suppose that two members of the family were earning 9s. each, and that they had 18s. coming into them, would you consider that such a case of destitution as would entitle them to relief?—Well, they might be able to pass reasonably.

8922. And you would not put them on relief?—No, if I knew them to be earning it.

8923. You know the district well?—Yes.

8924. If a man had a horse and cart employed constantly would you consider him destitute or his family?—I can only say that that is according to his means.

8925. But suppose he was bringing in £1 4s., and sometimes 5s. a week, you would consider that he would be a destitute man?—Some I would, and some I would not. I will give you my reason. A man with £1 4s. must pay for shoes to put on his horse.

8926. How long would they last?—A month or six weeks, and then he has to feed his horse; he has to get oats and hay, and you have to take that out of it again.

8927. How much oats do men like those working with Lord Ardilaun give their horses?—About one cwt. a week.

8928. If a man was paying £10 a year rent would you consider him destitute?—If he had no means I would.

8929. Do you think your neighbors, Michael Halloran, is a fit subject for relief?—Yes, and the reason is this—he has no grass sown.

8930. To whom?—His brother-in-law, Kane.

8931. He got money for it?—Yes.

8932. Well, was it for his personal appearance you made out to be in want?—Yes, and I know he was.

8933. Do you think Pat Loftin, of Clonbur, was a fit subject?—Yes.

8934. In short not a politician's license in his name?—Yes; it was in his brother's name before, and they were weak in debt.

8935. Do you consider that John Burke, of Ardagh, was a man of means?—Yes.

8936. Is he in needy circumstances?—Yes.

8937. Is he destitute?—He is, in my judgment.

8938. Do you know Tom Corbett, the forester?—Yes; but I don't know that he is a forester to Lord Ardilaun.

8939. Does he not get 9s. a week and a new suit of clothes at Christmas?—I do not know.

8940. Mr. Redington.—Is this Tom or Michael?—There are so many in it that I don't know.

8941. Mr. Jackson.—Did you give Michael relief?—Yes.

8942. Is not his son one who was on the work too?—Yes, but the son was giving no earnings to him I was told.

8943. They live together in the one house, and get 9s. a week each?—I believe so, but I know he told me they were starting.

8944. Do you know Patrick O'Dea?—Yes.

8945. Is he destitute?—Yes, he is an old man, not able to earn anything himself, by looking at him.

8946. Is that your idea of knowing if a man is destitute, by looking at him?—Yes, if you know about him, and that he has no means.

8947. Is he destitute?—Yes, according to what he told me.

8948. Are you aware that he has stock and a farm?—I am not.

8949. Do you know How?—Yes.

8950a. Is he destitute?—Yes.

8950b. Is he earning 9s. a week from Lord Ardilaun

every week of his life?—I had not that Hare working at all.

8931. Yet you say he was destitute?—Perhaps he did not ask.

8932. Do you say that you had not Hare working?—It may have been his brother you mean. I had him.

8933. What about the widow Barnfield, who is paying £14 a year rent?—Well, she has a large family, and has no means.

8934. Has she stock?—A little, perhaps.

8935. Mr. Redington.—What do you mean by a little?—A few sheep and a cow, maybe.

8936. How many?—About ten.

8937. Mr. Jackson.—You know Michael Laffy, do you?—Yes.

8938. Is he destitute?—He told me he was destitute. He thought he would get credit, and he could get none.

8939. Well, now, as to Tom O'arry, you gave relief to his son, Pat; is he destitute?—He told me he was.

8940. And you believed everyone what he said?—Yes, when I made inquiries and found it true.

8941. Pat Martin, is he destitute?—He has only a small part of land, and a large family, and no one earning but him.

8942. How much is he earning?—I do not know—from 7s. to 9s., perhaps.

8943. Would you be surprised to know that he is working by contract work, and very often gets 2s. a day?—I do not know that at all.

8944. Is he not a mason?—Sometimes I often see him when I was working myself, working with a spade and shovel.

8945. But I thought you knew the circumstances of all the people in your district, and yet you are surprised to hear that he is working with Lord Ardilham.

8946. Do you know Michael Halkoran, of Carrick-hakee?—Yes.

8947. Is he a poor man?—Every man, who is procured, and who is not able to pay until he is procured, and who has no means, I consider him to be destitute.

8948. May I consider if you regard that as a sufficient test?—No, I do not consider it a test; but, in dealing with a case of that sort, I must have regard to a man's means.

8949. That is not a very intelligible answer?—Well, it is the best answer I can give you.

8950. Rev Mr. English.—If a man was procured, and you found that he was not able to pay his rent, and that he had no means available, so far as you could see, I suppose you consider such a man destitute?—Yes.

8951. Mr. Jackson.—Do you know Thomas Halkoran?—Yes.

8952. Is he destitute?—Yes. It is his brother-in-law that stocked the land and paid the rent for him for the last three years; that is Paddy O'Brien, gamekeeper to Mr. Hodgson.

8953. Mr. Redington.—What is this man's rent?—I am not aware.

8954. Mr. Jackson.—Do you know John Fox?—Yes, he is a man with a large family.

8955. John has a horse and car?—Oh, John is an old man of 104 or 105 years of age. He is called John Fox.

8956. That is not the man you gave relief to?—It was to his grandson, Jeremy Fox.

8957. Has he not a horse and car?—Yes.

8958. You gave him relief?—Yes.

8959. Do you know Michael Sullivan?—Yes.

8960. You thought him destitute?—Well, he had only a few acres of land, and I suppose he told me that. Although he had that, he was not able to make it support him.

8961. Was he not in receipt of wages?—I am not sure, but I think he had wages.

8962. What family has he?—I don't know how many he has in family.

8963. Mr. Redington.—Is he a young man?—No. I know there is a lot of these there, seven or eight.

8964. Mr. Jackson.—Now, here is one late Guardian, Mr. Martin Dudgeon, is he destitute?—He is, to my belief.

8965. Mr. Robinson.—Did you give him relief?—I did.

8966. Do you mean the guardian?—He is not a guardian now. He was some time ago, and he was £99 in debt to Lord Ardilham.

8967. Mr. Jackson.—When was he in debt?—The year before that I heard Lord Ardilham tell him that he was in debt £99.

8968. Mr. Redington.—What was his rent?—I don't know.

8969. Mr. Robinson.—When was he guardian?—Last year.

8970. Mr. Redington.—You thought him destitute?—Yes; because I heard Lord Ardilham tell him that he was in debt £99, and I knew that his grass was sold to his brother-in-law.

8971. What did he get for the grass?—I don't know.

8972. Mr. Jackson.—Then your idea is this, that a man who does not pay his rent, and who is in debt a certain sum, and who lets his grass and gets paid for it, that because he is reported to owe £99, though he might be earning something, and must be earning something out of his land for the last three years, during which time he paid no rent, that such a man must be now in a destitute condition?—My belief is that if he was able to pay he would pay, and that if he had the money he would have the land stocked.

8973. However, you think that this gentleman, who was a guardian of the union so late as last year, was in a sufficiently destitute condition to justify you in giving him relief?—Yes.

8974. Do you know Hugh Flanagan of Dury?—Yes.

8975. Do you know him to be destitute?—I considered that he was in need of help. Mr. Hamilton told me he was not able to get a shilling for any little stock he had, and my order was to make inquiries of the shopkeepers, and I did so, and I considered him a fit subject.

8976. But I thought your duty was to go round and see the people yourself in their houses?—Yes; and I did so, except in those cases where I know myself the circumstances of the people.

8977. You know John Sarsfield?—Yes.

8978. Was he very destitute?—I know that he is.

8979. Are you aware that his wife came back from America with a pot-full of money?—I know that she came back, and that she had not three bad halfpences.

8980. Yes; but she might have a good many good ones?—She went out to see whether she could get anything better there than at home, and came back to find that she had not anything.

8981. Mr. Redington.—What is his rent?—About £5.

8982. Is the land he holds near the mountain?—Well, there is much on it. It is cut by the lake, and it is not worth much.

8983. Mr. Jackson.—How many sheep has he?—He has eight or nine.

8984. How many cows?—Three or four.

8985. Has he a horse?—No.

8986. Do you know Tom Duffy?—I do.

8987. Is he destitute?—To my belief he is.

8988. Has he a horse and car?—Yes.

8989. Has he taken grazing land besides the land he has?—I don't know. He told me he could not

Continued?
Michael
Sarsfield

DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.
—
Michael
Bennett.

get a day's work since the day the voting papers came to him.

9010. Rev. Mr. Engham.—How many families are there in the electoral division of Clonbar?—I could not give an account of how many.

9011. Are there four or five hundred in the electoral division?—There are a couple of thousand people there any way.

9012. Mr. Robinson.—The population is 2,681.

9013. Most of those people are Lord Ardilaun's tenants?—Yes.

9014. And most of them are exceedingly poor?—The whole of them are very poor, indeed, except very few.

9015. Do you know, in any part of the country, tenants who are poorer than they are?—No, I do not care what may be the position of people in any other part of the country but I must say this, that so far as those people are concerned, they were as poor as could possibly be.

9016. It is true that Lord Ardilaun does give employment at intervals, and endeavours to give as much as he can in that particular portion of the country?—There is, no doubt, a good deal of employment given, but at a time like that when the Relief Act was in operation, there were many men who had no means at all, and whom I consider to have been destitute.

9017. Take the division of Clonbar?—Most of the people there, with the exception of a few new Combs, were very poor.

9018. Did the people of Clonbar get employment from Lord Ardilaun?—A few new men did, but there was a great number who did not, and in a great number of cases they had no credit and no means, and they were good subjects for relief.

9019. Mr. Robinson.—Are you of opinion that most of the people who received relief during the time of the administration of the provisions of the Poor Relief Act, were in a condition of destitution and were deserving of relief from the funds provided

under that Act?—Yes, I do. I may add that most of those people who were working for Lord Ardilaun were from Mayo.

9020. Am I right in assuming that the great majority of those who work for Lord Ardilaun of whom you have any knowledge, received £s. a week?—Yes.

9021. Rev. Mr. Engham.—Do you know of any other cases except those mentioned by Mr. Jackson, where the people were in the position mentioned by him, when he asked you the questions you have stated?—No, I do not.

9022. But Mr. Jackson stated that there were many of those cases which he could mention—do you know of any of them?—No, if there are any such people I would wish to know of them—I do not myself.

9023. There were about a dozen or more names mentioned by Mr. Jackson, of persons whom he believes got relief without deserving it. Some of those people, I believe, had long families of about nine or ten people. Now do you believe that in the majority of those cases although the people receiving relief may have had something, yet that they were at the time of receiving the relief in a condition entitling them to help under the Act?—I believe they were.

9024. Mr. Joyce, Vice-chairman.—Would those people mentioned by Mr. Jackson have paid their rents if they possibly could have done so? I believe they would, but they were in this position, that they could never make any money out of the little holdings they had, nor make sufficient out of any other source of income to enable them to either pay their rents or live. And I believed that such persons were in a condition of destitution, and being ordered to help any persons destitute, I thought that they came within that description.

9025. Rev. Mr. Engham.—Were many of those people processed?—Yes.

9026. Did you believe that most of the people who were processed were absolutely unable to pay the amount for which they were processed?—Yes.

Mr. Joyce, Chairman of the Board of Guardians, recalled.

Mr. Joyce.

9027. Mr. Robinson.—We have heard the evidence of the relieving officer as to a number of people having received relief who had cattle and sheep, but it would appear that you had no means of checking the returns or raffing their books?—I had not. I had no knowledge as to whether outsiders had cattle, or whether they had not, except what I heard.

9028. So that so far as some of those cases are concerned if you had had full or satisfactory information you might have refused them?—I did not exactly say that—but I can only say this, that if I knew that any person had sheep, cattle, goods, or anything of that sort, and were able to pull through, I would not have given any such persons relief.

9029. If a man had one hundred sheep, say, and owed money to the shopkeepers, would you have considered him a proper subject for relief under the Act?—That would all depend, but if they were not able to sell their stock, and if they were in the position that they had no means, I would think that they were fit subjects for relief under the Act.

9030. Do you think that on the whole there was much irregularity in the administration of the relief under the Act, during the time the distress prevailed?—I do not think so.

9031. Having regard to the fact that the Local Government Board gave £4,000 to this union, and that the guardians seemed always anxious to co-

operate with them, do you think that there was any extravagance in the way in which the relief was administered, and that the guardians should have been satisfied with meeting the destitution that prevailed by a smaller expenditure?—Yes, I think that, but unfortunately the financial position of the union is not as good as it might be, and any laxity that took place might be forgiven having regard to the difficulties of the time and the almost universal depression that prevailed.

9032. Did you ever authorise the clerk of the union to write to the Inspector saying that they (the guardians) did not want any advice from the Local Government Board?—I never did. I wish to state distinctly that the guardians have always been, and are, most desirous to take any advice from the Local Government Board, and to co-operate with them, and they never gave authority to anyone to convey any impression to the contrary.

9033. Mr. Robinson (to Mr. O'Meara).—Why did you not obey the instructions of the guardians, who made an order that you were to send circulars to each of the relieving officers?—The direction was carried out.

9034. Your own evidence in the other way?—I gave the instructions, and every one of them got a copy of this document from that down.

9035. Mr. Redington (to the Chairman of the Board).—What did you instruct your clerk to send to the relieving officers at the first meeting?

Mr. Joyce.—Copies of the circular we received from

the Local Government Board for the guidance of the relieving officers. The circular of 30th April.

Mr. Gilmore.—I sent this circular of the 30th April as directed. That's all I can say.

Overseers,
Mr. Gilmore.

Mr. Arthur Board, S.O.S., sworn.

9036. Mr. Robinson.—When did you first attend a meeting of the Board?—On the 29th April.

9037. On that day did you explain the circular to the guardians?—Yes.

9038. Were the guardians at that time anxious to work under the Act as commercially as they could?—Yes.

9039. And were they ready to co-operate with you as far as they possibly could?—Yes.

9040. When did you attend again?—On the 13th May.

9041. Do you recollect what was done at the first meeting you attended?—I know they were engaged principally in scheduling the roads, there were a great number of clergymen and others here who were anxious to get things started, and that question was considered, and also, I think, the appointment of assistant relieving officers was gone into that day.

9042. Did the guardians sit late on that occasion?—I left the meeting in the afternoon, and they were still arranging about the roads.

Mr. Arthur
Board, S.O.S.

9043. Did you attend any other meeting?—Yes, on the 13th May, and on that occasion I impressed upon them the necessity of having all the names in the application and report book, and they passed a resolution to stop the works for a few days, in order to get in the relieving officers' books, but I understand that there was a great difficulty in that, because of the long distance the relieving officers had to travel.

9044. You wrote to Mr. Gilmore a letter as to the administration of the relief, and he replied "that the guardians did not consider it desirable to take any advice on the subject"—is that so?—Yes, I wrote the letter and took the responsibility of writing it, although I myself was not able to be here.

9045. And now we hear the guardians never attached Mr. Gilmore to write such a letter?—Yes.

9046. Mr. Redington.—You were not here after that, I believe?—No, Mr. Conyn attended afterwards, and I was engaged upon other duty.

Augustus E. Lewis sworn.

9047. Mr. Robinson.—You are Deputy Vice-Chairman?—Yes.

9048. What electoral division do you represent?—Wormhole.

9049. Were you present here during the administration of the Poor Relief Act?—Yes.

9050. Did you attend all the meetings?—Yes.

9051. There was very great pressure during the administration of the relief?—Yes.

9052. And in consequence of that there was a certain amount of confusion prevailing?—Yes.

9053. And the relieving officers had, no doubt, a great deal of difficulty in dealing with these cases?—Yes.

9054. I understand that the relieving officers' books were not written up?—No.

9055. Consequently the guardians could not rule them?—Not all, although there were a good many extra hours spent over them by the chairman and vice-chairman.

9056. Do you think that the relief was managed economically under the circumstances?—Yes.

Mr. Augustus
E. Lewis.

9057. Do you think that if the relieving officers had ruled their books and laid them before you, you could have curtailed the expenses?—Yes, I think it possible that such a curtailment might have been effected. I may say that I myself attended the works and looked after the relief from beginning to end in person, and there were a good number of people who went upon the works when I do not think should be there, and I told the relieving officers not to take them there, and they did that.

9058. Mr. Redington.—Are you satisfied that nothing less than £974 should be required to meet the requirements of your division?—Yes, because I never have seen the people in a worse condition than they were at that time.

9059. So you are prepared to pay the balance?—If it could possibly be helped we, of course, would not like to do so, in any case, I think more help ought to be given for the division of Wormhole—it is the third large rated division in the Union, and we only received £290 odd, whilst others received twice as much, that I don't think needed it more than we did.

J. Jackson, J.R., sworn.

9060. Mr. Redington.—You are the Agent for Lead Ashdown?—Yes.

9061. Have you any evidence you wish to give?—Well, I would like to make it clear as to the employment given by Lead Ashdown. I may just recollect the fact that he spent £2,700 odd in wages, exclusive of contracts, in the year, and in the last two years about £10,000 was spent on contract work. He gave a great deal of employment within the last two or three years.

9062. Is it your opinion that all those persons whose names you mentioned were unfit subjects for relief?—Yes, and I could give more. My opinion is that a very great number indeed of those who got relief did not require it at all. There were exceptional cases,

no doubt, but I am of opinion that £200 or £300 would have supplied the wants of all who were urgently destitute.

9063. £1,145, you know, was spent in Clebur?—Yes, it was grossly in excess of what was requisite. There are about seventy men employed every day at Ashford, and these men received 9s. a week as finders, and there are a great number of Clebur people employed.

9064. Were they receiving their wages during the time the relief was going on?—Yes, every day in the year that they could stand out and work, and often on days that they ought not to be paid at all, when they would just come in and cut wood in the sheds.

9065. Rev. Mr. Redington.—You said that Lord

Mr. J. Jackson

DECLARATION
Mr. J. Jackson.

Ardfinnan gave a good deal of employment within the past two or three years, but did not give it for the past seven or eight years?—Well, until a few years ago he did give most extensive employment.

9046. Until when?—Till the men at Clonbur were going on, and until his men were murdered.

9047. You say there are about seventy men employed at Ashwood?—In or about that.

9048. You say there are a great number of Clonbur men employed—do you mean the parish or town?—The whole electoral division.

9049. Do you know the village of Clockbrook and Mullnadrum?—I do not know Mullnadrum.

9050. You know where Matthias Kerrigan lives?—Yes.

9051. Are these people all tenants of Lord Ardfinnan?—Yes.

9052. How many people are there in these districts?—I cannot say, but they are very populous, and all the people were on the relief.

9053. You know Gurtinuck?—Yes.

9054. Is it very poor?—No doubt it is.

9055. As poor nearly as could be?—They are very small holdings.

9056. And very few of those people get any employment?—They could not, except at the hay-time.

9057. I do not want to imply that Lord Ardfinnan is not a benefactor to his immediate neighbourhood, but is the greater part of the electoral division of Clonbur, where the relief was given, most of the people did not get any employment anywhere, and they are miserably poor, as any people in the world.

9058. Mr. Robinson.—At what period do the people cut the turf, and how long does it last?—In March, but on account of the relief works, it did not begin until July.

9059. If it was true, as stated, that these people went to cut turf in June, those people would be busy to remain away for a month?—A man would not be a month away cutting for himself.

9060. But in the district?—Well, they would be engaged at it about a month.

9061. So that rather than cut what Sarsfield said?—Yes, but the tenants cut turf for wages, and they may have been engaged in that way.

9062. Mr. Joyce.—You were an ex-officio guardian?—Yes.

9063. And you say there were abuses?—Yes.

9064. Why did you not come to the Board and report them?—Well, the roughness of the lake for one reason prevented me.

9065. The roughness of the lake! But why did you not write?—No, for I thought it would be useless.

9066. Why did you assume it?—From information which I received.

9067. But, surely, we are not to go on mere "information"?—Yes, I think we are, at least from information I received. I believe my interference would have been useless.

9068. Mr. Robinson.—Do you believe that if complaints of abuses were made here they would not have been listened to?—I heard of guardians here who tried to get abuses remedied, and they were not listened to, at least they were not.

9069. Do you refer to abuses under the Relief Act?—Yes.

9070. I never heard of such cases. As a matter of fact, was not from £150 to £200 nearly given in outdoor relief in Clonbur?—The books will show.

9071. Do you swear that you got information to the effect that you state?—Yes.

Mr. Gilmore (clerk), recalled.

Mr. Gilmore.

9072. Mr. Robinson.—In that return of the Exhibitions of the union correct?—It is.

9073. Is it a return of the ordinary liabilities, and those under the Relief Act?—Yes.

9074. Does it show the balance of seed rate uncollected?—Yes.

9075. With regard to your estimate—how did you prepare your estimate of expenses to the 29th September?—I took all the credits, and took them all in one column.

9076. Column 8 shows the total debts, estimated between March and September—on what basis did you arrive at that?—On the basis of the former half year.

9077. As to the expense for the twelve months—how did you estimate £710 for indoor expenses—in that more or less than last year?—It is larger.

9078. How did you estimate that?—Because I think it will be required.

9079. Why?—Because I think that the poverty of the district is greater, and likely to increase.

9080. Is the estimate for out-door relief less or more?—I think it is about the same—some what more, I should say.

9081. Is it much more?—It was £182 last year.

9082. And it is upwards of £300 this year, and therefore it is double?—Well, there was a great deal given during the last six months in the ordinary way, and I have no doubt that that will continue.

9083. Do you think that your estimate in that regard will bear a certain amount of cutting down?—Well, it is quite possible that it may.

9084. In indoor expenses what is your estimate?—£661 was the figure, and I added £40 to that.

9085. What was your amount for establishment expenses?—£1,293.

9086. What was the amount last year?—£1,145. The salaries of relieving officers represent the change.

9077. Under the head of Medical Charities Act last year, the amount is £275, and you have added this year £20?—Yes.

9078. Why was that?—The contractors' bill for medicines is higher than before.

9079. To meet all that estimate it would require what rate?—It would require a rate varying from 1s. 6d. to 12s. 11d.

9080. When did the guardians agree to the rate that they would strike?—On the last Board day last year, and they made the alteration which you will see from the return I now produce (return handed in).

9081. On what account did they make these reductions?—That the ratepayers could not bear a heavier rate.

9082. Was it a uniform reduction?—Well, it was simply a uniform addition of 1s. to the rate of last year to pay off this extra loan.

9083. Was the rate last year cut down?—Yes.

9084. And was there a general reduction last year?—There was an average reduction of 5d.

9085. Mr. Robinson.—The return of expenditure you handed in yesterday differs very much as to electoral divisions from the return sent to the Local Government Board when the grants were being sent down?—Yes, there was not sufficient time or information available at that time. The last return is the correct one.

9086. You are aware that the grants were made after consideration of the rates expended in each electoral division?—Yes; the only way I arrived at the returns was the relieving officers used to send slips of paper with particulars, and I had to make it up as well as I could from the information I got, and it was not always accurate.

9087. Mr. Robinson.—As to the seed rate, is there

another instalment of it due besides what you return here?—There is one due.

9125. Have you paid the Board of Works all the seed rate you collected?—No, £671 was appropriated to union purposes.

9126. On the 25th of September what was the total liability of the union to contractors?—£3,064.

9127. What are the total debts of the union now?—£3,835 including balance of seed loan.

9128. What are included in the credits?—Rates not collected and other credits.

9129. What was the amount of uncollected rates at that date?—£926 3s 9d.

9130. What is the total amount of liabilities, leaving out the poor relief excess?—£1,084—debt, &c.

9131. For what?—For different things.

9132. Is anything due to the Board of Works?—£1,084.

9133. Is that a portion of the second or third instalment?—The third.

9134. Has the total third rate been collected?—No.

9135. What is outstanding?—I cannot say.

9137. How many seed rates have been collected?—Three, I think. Oh, I should say the £671 was portion of the fourth instalment due to the Board of Works. The three instalments previous to that were paid in full. I made a mistake at first. Part of the fourth rate has been collected.

9138. Has any part of it been appropriated to other purposes?—Yes, £671.

9139. What is the full amount of the fourth instalment?—£1,084.

9140. And it is all due?—Yes.

9141. What are the liabilities under the Poor Relief Act?—The total debt, including all, amount to £9,448.

9142. What are the debts exclusive of the Poor Relief Act liability?—Merely the seed loan.

9143. What were the total grants the Government gave?—£4,017.

9144. And the excess?—£3,964.

9145. If there was no relief of Distress Act would there not have been a balance to credit in September?—Yes, about £400.

9146. The guardians reduced your estimate last year?—Yes.

9147. And notwithstanding that the reduced estimate proved more than was required?—Yes.

9148. Having regard to that, do you not think your present estimate might bear a very large reduction?—I do not think so considering the liabilities.

9149. Mr. Jackson—Why is the rate for Wornhole so high?—It was 2s. last year, and now it is 4s. I thought you and there was a general addition of 1s. all round?—(No answer.)

9150. Mr. Robinson—I thought you told me that the guardians simply added 1s. to last year's rate?—Well, mostly. In some cases it was more, but it was an average of 1s. on the whole.

9151. There was no rule adopted on the subject?—No.

9152. They added 1s. 6d. in Corgi?—Yes.

9153. And only temperance in the case of Corgi?—I made a separate estimate of what would be required, and in that case there was a credit to favour.

9154. Two shillings was added in Ebleston; why was that?—On account of the expenditure and the smallness of the valuation.

9155. One shilling and threepence was added to Oughtonard; why was that?—I cannot say. The guardians exercised their discretion.

Mr. Joyce (Chairman) resumed.

9156. Mr. Robinson—Do you think the ratepayers could pay that?—I do not think so.

9157. And it is really under the full rate that would be required?—Yes.

9158. Why could they not pay it?—The country is too poor, the prices are bad, the rents are high, and they are not able to pay. The prices of stock have gone down, and the tenant farmers have not recovered.

9159. Are pigs lower?—Yes, they sell at 31s. a cw., which is lower than last year.

9160. And the potato crop?—It is a pretty fair average crop around this district, but in the mountainous districts it is bad.

9161. Are they bad in the bog lands?—Yes.

9162. And oats?—A poor average.

9163. Generally speaking you think this year is worse than last?—Yes, and the people are badly able to pay their debts.

9164. Mr. Robinson—Some of these divisions have paid rates for years, and even higher than those now estimated?—But times were better then.

9165. Is not a good deal of the rates paid by the landlords?—I believe so.

9166. The rents have been reduced?—Very little here.

9167. By the Land Courts?—On Mr. Fishery's property very little.

9168. Well on Mr. Banidge's?—There have been some reductions no doubt.

9169. Are the landlords less able to pay high rates now than they were before?—Well, considering all the big rents they squeezed out for so many years they ought to be able to pay.

9170. But are they as well able to pay now as before?—No; they may suffer now a bit, but they did not suffer before. It was the poor man always suffered.

9171. As chairman of the Board what would you recommend?—The guardians would be glad to get a fine grant to wipe out our debt.

9172. To manage this union you want about £3,000 a year—what percentage would that be?—It would require an average rate in ordinary times of 4s.

9173. Would that press heavily on you?—It would straiten us we are.

9174. How much more than 4s. can the people pay in order to strike off this debt?—I do not think they could pay more than that.

9175. The average rate last year was 2s. 3d.?—Yes.

9176. Do you think you will be able to continue paying the rates struck for this year?—No; we would be glad if we could get a loan to be paid off by a penny in the pound and extended over thirty years.

9177. Is that the feeling of the guardians?—Yes; and it is what I think would suit the people.

9178. You think it would impoverish the people very much to try and pay them in any other way?—Yes.

9179. The difficulty of collection would be very great?—Yes; indeed there has been great difficulty in collecting the rates—from the landlords particularly.

9180. Mr. Robinson—Is not the valuation rather low in many parts of the country?—No; it is rather high.

CONTINUING.
Mr. Gifford.

Mr. Joyce.

Mr. O'Sullivan recalled.

Mr. O'Sullivan.

Mr. O'Sullivan.

9181. Mr. Robinson.—Have you carried forward any of the Parliamentary grant against the expenses of the current year?—Yes; by direction of the Local Government Board I have carried forward £350.

9182. Do you include it in column eleven?—Yes.

9183. Is there one and a half years Parliamentary grant included there?—Yes.

Mr. Augustus A. Levin, D.V.O., recalled.

Mr. Augustus A. Levin.

D.V.O.

9184. Mr. Robinson.—You object to the rate struck in respect of Wornhole?—Yes, I do not agree to it.

9185. You think it too high?—Yes, it cannot possibly be paid, for I never knew the people of that division to be worse off.

9186. What do you consider would be a fair rate?—From 3s. 6d. to 5s. would be the highest.

9187. Did you vote against the rate struck?—I did on this day week; the day of the first striking I was served with a notice of 3s. 6d., and it was so stormy that I could not attend, I had to remain to keep my house from being blown away; the next day I came and objected to the rate being increased; now it is 4s.

and the carrier Mr. O'Sullivan gave me was that he did not think the Local Government Board would accept less than 4s.; I said we could not pay it.

9188. Did you hear Mr. Joyce's suggestion as to the way of meeting this?—Yes; I would have no objection to anything that would reduce the rate, but I certainly object to 4s.

9189. The ordinary expenditure in Wornhole was greater than in the previous year?—I think it was about £10.

Mr. Robinson.—£13 is estimated for ordinary relief for Wornhole.

The Rev. Messrs. Baginbun sworn.

Rev. Messrs.

Baginbun.

9190. Mr. Robinson.—You wish to make some observations, Father Baginbun?—I should say as regards the way that Our Letterbricken and Ross Electoral Divisions were treated is opposed to me they did not get a reasonable share of the grants of the Local Government Board, and my reason is that if you regard the people in these divisions and compare them with the population in other divisions you will find that though the greatest efforts were made to show that there were abuses, the expenditure was small there, comparatively speaking. I must say honestly I am surprised to find that some persons did get relief, but I think you will agree with me that on the whole these divisions were managed judiciously, and I must say that the chairman and vice-chairman used their influence in every way to see that no one got relief except those entitled to it. As I have said, I consider that the expenditure in the divisions I have named was small comparatively. The people would find it very difficult indeed to meet the estimated rates. The landlords have felt the pressure of hard times as much as anyone. Whilst some of them have given reductions others have not given a penny, and the ratepayers are simply not in a position to pay the rate. I think that we kept the expenditure within the very narrowest limits, having regard to the population and the distress which prevailed. I can speak for the Clonber Electoral Division, and say that anything in the nature of an increased rate, anything beyond the ordinary rate required for the support of the houses, will be very difficult. The year may be worse—there is no prospect of their being better. The price of sheep between September and October got up, but now I hear they are in, under what they were in October, and cattle, I believe, is at least as bad. Speaking for the whole parish of Ross, Clonber, Carr, and Letterbricken, I say that, taking into consideration the condition of the landlords, the graziers, and some of the poor people who will have to pay rates (the poorest will, of course, have nothing to pay), anything approaching a substantial rate cannot be paid. The people have been straining to the utmost for the past four or five years; they are deeply indebted to the shopkeepers. Some people came to me and told me the relieving officer would not give them relief, and they showed me their bills to the shopkeepers, and after that I must say I tried to get the relieving officers to help them. Speaking of Letter-

bricken, I may say that the potato crop is on the whole at least as bad as that of last year. Of the five it is the worst. I think Mr. Jackson will bear me out in saying that, speaking generally, the potato crop is on the whole worse than last year.

Mr. Jackson.—It is hardly so good.

Rev. Mr. Baginbun.—That being so I would certainly suggest that, as the Government thought fit to come to the relief of the distress in the manner in which they did, it would not be too much to hope that the gentlemen here appointed to investigate this matter—and in whom, permit me to say, everyone has the very greatest confidence and respect—will recommend the Local Government Board to obtain through the influence of the Government another grant to wipe out this enormous amount, or that they would give a loan the interest to extend over as many years as possible, so that the burthen would be made light in conformity with the capacity of the people. I may express a hope in conclusion, that we will never see such a year again.

9191. What would you say would be a fair rate?—Well, I can only say that even as regards the ordinary rate in Clonber and the five districts I speak of, I have known the people often to be obliged to borrow the money to pay it.

Mr. Jackson.—What you say, Father Baginbun, is perfectly correct.

9192. Mr. Robinson.—Another question now is the alteration of the boundaries. Would you add the electoral division of Clifden to Oughtermond?—I cannot speak with any confidence as to that, but I rather like the idea in general.

9193. You would not like to have Oughtermond added to Clifden?—Oh, no; do not do that.

9194. Mr. Robinson.—They propose to take the whole of Oughtermond except near Ballinrobe, and not give any to Galway?—That is all out of the question, we object to it. I would rather have the valuation of Clifden added to us to diminish our establishment charges, but on the other hand the distance would make it very inconvenient to Clifden.

9195. You think the saving would not be commensurate with the disadvantages?—No; I do not think so. The guardians considered the whole subject, and their views are before the Local Government Board.

9196. You do not think the views of the guardians have altered?—No; I do not.

Mr. Joyce (Chairman of the Board) recalled.

9197. Mr. Robinson.—Would you like to have the area of the union enlarged?—Yes.

9198. That is the view of the board?—Yes, a

division of Galway might benefit us. There is a division of Galway only four or five miles away.

9199. If you had £15,000 or so added to your val-

ation the rates would of course be assessed upon a very large amount as compared with your present position.—Yes; but if you were assessed to Clifton it would be very hard to take a pauper from the lower part of—say Wormald, forty or fifty miles.

9292. But suppose Clifton was assessed to you?—I think portion of Clifton—portion of Skanawgula—might be added to us. That is about twelve miles distant.

9293. What about Letterbrick?—It is too far.

9294. Your board would be opposed to annexation with Clifton?—Yes, and so would the ratepayers. It would be a great benefit to a large portion of this union, and tend to decrease pauperism, to complete the road down to Costello Bay. It is partly made; its completion would create traffic, and the people of Currane would be able to develop the fishing industry. It would benefit 4,000 or 5,000 persons.

9295. Having regard to the evidence are there any changes you would suggest?—We would be anxious to reduce the rates, but I do not see any changes that would effect that.

Mr. Jackson recalled.

9296. Mr. Robinson.—Is there any alteration in the boundaries of the Union that you would suggest?—I would suggest that those three or four divisions at the north side of the lake should be put in Ballinrobe—I mean Glenvar, Cong, Ross, and Can.

9297. In the event of adding Clifton to you should these divisions go to Ballinrobe?—Well, Letterbrickton might go to Westport.

9298. Can you suggest any other change?—Unless you would give us a good slice of Galway, but not the marshland district. As to Clifton, we could not attend there, and it would not work at all in the interests of the poor to annex them to us.

Patrick Teale, Rate Collector, sworn.

9299. Mr. Robinson.—Did you get instructions from Mr. Gilmore to supply a return of outstanding rates?—Not yet, sir.

9300. Did you get a circular from Mr. Gilmore?—Oh, yes, I have that drawn out.

9301. I see £3 15s. due by Bartley Molloy?—It is the landlord has to pay it.

9302. Are those all under-noted tenants?—Yes.

9303. Have you applied to the landlord?—Yes.

9304. Who is he?—George O'Shaherty.

9305. What steps have been taken to get this money?—The Board instructed their solicitor. Only five in his division (Lettermore) have not paid.

9306. Have the Board taken proceedings against all the landlords for the rates due by them?—They have now.

9307. Are there any irrecoverable arrears due by rated tenants?—One.

9308. Who is that?—Stephen Larkin, of Dinah.

9309. Is he able to pay?—No; of £103 8s. 10d. that is the only one that is irrecoverable.

9310. There is £197 19s. due in Currane, how much of it is irrecoverable?—£10 about.

9311. Why not collect the rest?—It is the landlords who owe.

9312. Who are they?—St. George and O'Donnellan Blake Foster.

9313. In Currane there is £374 7s. 11d. due; how much of that is by the landlords?—There is a lot of small tenants. We thought the landlord was liable, and they were not asked for four or five years, and until this year when we found out that the tenants themselves were liable. That was Mrs. Kirwan's property, and the guardians allowed me to take one-third of the rates, for they were not able to pay all.

9314. Do you think it would be possible to reduce the establishment charges?—No; I do not.

9315. What is the master's salary?—About £20 and reticent, and mutton, £30.

9316. You have no schoolmaster?—No.

9317. You have an hospital nurse?—Yes; about £4 or £5. I do not think the establishment could be run lower than it is.

9318. You would be favourable to a slight enlargement of the boundaries?—Yes, if practicable.

9319. Mr. Robinson.—The average number of paupers here last year was seventy-six. Is not that a small number to support a workhouse for?—Well, no doubt it seems so, but there are other considerations.

Rev. Mr. English.—You must remember that the distances are considerable, and in a great number of cases the patients or sick paupers are not removed to the workhouse by direction of the medical officer, and that would account to a certain extent for the small numbers in the house.

9320. Mr. Robinson.—The guardians have not altered their views on the subject of amalgamation?—No.

9321. If you had a railway would it alter your views?—No; for how would you bring people from Shinn Head or Carris, or from Errisbeg or Measnewa. If you give us six or seven railways it might do.

9322. Mr. Robinson.—Would you annex yourself to Galway?—Yes, as it was some years ago.

9323. Is there greater difficulty in meeting a high rate now than some years ago?—Yes; I think the expenditure last year was as low as we can expect it to be. I have been attending this Board for thirty years, and within the last twenty I have never seen the rates lower than last year.

9324. Have the rated tenants paid?—Yes.

9325. Have proceedings been taken where the rates are overdue?—Yes.

9326. I see £1 15s. 6d. due by Martin Flaherty, Currane; can't he pay?—No.

9327. John Connolly, £8 3s. 11d.?—That is in the same place. He paid one-third of that.

9328. Mr. Robinson.—Who authorised you to take one-third?—The guardians.

9329. Thomas Kane, £3 2s. 8d.—where does he live?—At Donaghita.

9330. Is he able to pay?—No, he is not.

9331. Do you know that to accept part of the rate is against the regulations?—Well, they would not give it otherwise.

9332. Mr. Robinson.—What is the total amount of arrears in your district?—£574 16s. 9d., and £103 was paid since yesterday.

9333. What is the total amount of your warrant?—£279 10s. 8d.

9334. Out of that how much have you collected?—About £500.

9335. Mr. Robinson.—In these cases of tenants who have not paid, have you gone on the lands to seize their stock?—They have nothing.

9336. Do they owe large amounts?—From £3 to £4.

9337. Are they under-rated?—Yes.

9338. Do they hold under lease?—No; they hold "in Co." and see therefore liable. The landlord has consented to take the rents from them, but Mr. Blake holds that they are liable.

9339. Are separate receipts given?—Yes.

Mr. Joyce (Chairman of the Board).—I consider it a great shame and hardship such a system.

Michael Goughgan (Collector) sworn.

9247. Mr. Rodington. — Peter Molloy—why did you not collect from him?—He is a poor man.
 9248. Darby Thornton?—He is gone to Australia, and there is no one there except the landlord.
 9249. Can't you recover from him?—Yes.
 9250. Who is he?—Mr. Derridge.
 9251. Is the man long gone?—Twelve months.
 9252. Representatives of McGee's, Oughterton—why have they not paid?—They used to pay up to this year, I believe, to Mr. Robinson. They are tenants of Mr. Rodgson's estate, and Mr. Robinson refused to pay, saying the two were in one holding, and the valuation of both was over £4.
 9253. Arthur Doog, £15 10s. 1.—That is in the hands of the solicitor.

9254. William Connolly?—He is a poor man, but he will pay.

9255. Walter Butler, Carnawans?—That is recoverable.

9256. Martin Halloran, £3 7s. 1.—That man's valuation is over £20, and he will pay. He has promised.

9257. Richard Sullivan, £3 3s. 1.—That is a valuation under £4, and three years' rates are due; but the landlord won't pay. He says there are two holdings held by one man.

9258. When did you get your warrant?—Twelve months last year—17th December.

9259. What is the amount of it?—Including arrears £1,250 17s. 10d., and £1,074 17s. 10d. collected.

Peter O'Malley (Collector) sworn.

9260. Mr. Robinson.—What is the amount of your warrant?—£203 16s. 3d., including arrears.
 9261. How much did you collect?—£379 18s. 10d., and to-day there is only £5 4s. 11½d. due.
 Yours is a very good collection.
 The Inquiry terminated.

Dec. 21, 1886.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1886.

GALWAY UNION.

The Commissioners opened the Inquiry in the Boardroom of the Workhouse.

Robert Francis Malley, Clerk of the Union, sworn.

Mr. Robert Francis Malley.

9262. Mr. Rodington.—Are you the Clerk of the Galway Union?—Yes.

9263. This is a return of the expenditure under the Poor Relief Act and of the grants made in the electoral divisions of the Union. Is it correct?—Yes. [Witness reads and verifies return. See Appendix.]

9264. Within what dates was the excess expenditure incurred?—Between the 15th of May and the 17th of June.

9265. Was there not some in July?—Oh, yes; I should have said between the 15th of May and the 17th of July.

9266. You have also supplied a return of the number of cases of persons relieved in each electoral division. Is that correct?—Yes. [Return verified by witness. See Appendix.]

9267. Are there any cases of ordinary out-door relief included in this return?—No; they are exclusively poor relief cases under the Act.

9268. Is the expenditure return did you include the cost of tools?—No; nor remuneration, nor the salary of assistant relieving officers.

9269. You can give us the expenditure for these items?—Yes; I can do that afterwards. There is nothing in that return except the amounts given to poor persons under the Act.

9270. Here is a return of cases and persons from the 1st of January to the 24th of September. Is that correct?—Yes.

9271. There is also a return of the number of admissions to the workhouse during the same period?—Yes.

9272. Mr. Robinson.—Did the Local Government Board authorize you to give out-door relief under this Act, throughout the entire union?—Yes.

9273. But it was only given in certain divisions that you specify in your return?—Yes.

9274. When did you receive authority to put the Act into operation?—On the 5th of May.

9275. What was the next meeting of the Board of Guardians held after the 5th of May?—The 7th of May.

9276. Would you just state what steps the guardians took then about putting the Act into operation?

—There was a special meeting summoned to take the matter into consideration, and at that meeting they determined on which electoral divisions they would commence the relief works, and put the Act into operation.

9277. Did they determine what the relief works were to consist of?—Yes, they decided that they were to comprise roads, that in certain cases were to be repaired.

9278. Did they give the relieving officers instructions about writing up their books?—Yes.

9279. What were the instructions?—I gave them instructions to deal with the cases as ordinary out-door relief cases, to state the full particulars, the number of persons in each family.

9280. Were they told to submit each case at each weekly meeting?—Yes.

9281. Did the guardians fix the amount of remuneration to be paid for the works done?—Yes; it was fixed that the remuneration should be 1s. 6d. a day in the first instance, but it was afterwards changed to 1s.

9282. Did they inquire into every case?—Yes.

9283. In the event of one man having a larger family than another, did he get more, or was any qualification made in such a case as that?—Yes, when they found that it did not work as they had first arranged it, they made alterations applicable to particular cases. In fact when they found that a shilling a day would not be enough to support a family, they gave the relieving officer authority to increase it.

9284. That was at the discretion of the relieving officer?—Yes.

9285. At first there was a local and first regulation that 1s. 6d. a day should be the remuneration?—Yes.

9286. The relief was supplied, I presume, in food?—Yes, all cases were paid in food.

9287. Were contractors declared for the union?—That was a matter under consideration on a few occasions.

sions, and they thought it advisable not to declare contractors, that it was better, in the interests of the people, that they should get the supply of food in places where they thought they would get the best value.

9288. Then the prices varied?—Yes, but the order for provisions was the same as money.

9289. Did any contractors, or rather did any shopkeepers charge more than others?—I have no knowledge of that.

9290. If contractors had been declared there would have been an uniform price at which relief would have been supplied?—Well, we invited tenders, and they varied in their prices very much.

9291. And you did not accept any of the tenders?—No, none of them. After consideration, at the meetings of the Board, they thought it better to leave it optional with the people to go where they chose.

9292. So that any shopkeeper could honour the tickets issued by the relieving officer?—Yes.

9293. And they sent in their accounts to the relieving officer?—No, they came to me directly.

9294. Did the relieving officers write up their accounts?—Yes, as well as they could.

9295. As a matter of fact, the assistant relieving officer's books were not, I believe, written up completely?—No, they were not.

9296. Were any of the relieving officers able to write up their books completely to date?—No, I don't think there was any single case where they had them absolutely completed the previous morning.

9297. How soon after the relief was given did they write up their books?—Some of them were completed almost immediately, others were not.

9298. When were the relief lists written up?—When they had the application and report books written up they completed their relief lists.

9299. Are they written up now?—Yes.

9300. And checked?—Yes; some of them had very large districts and they got a good deal of assistance from the assistant relieving officers.

9301. Did they get lists from the assistant relieving officers?—Yes, and they were also assisted by the clergy and the guardians of each district.

9302. How many assistant relieving officers were appointed?—One for each electoral division where the works were carried out.

9303. Were they acting independently of the permanent officers or were they acting under their directions?—Under their directions and assisting them.

9304. So that as a matter of fact the permanent men were responsible?—Yes, they were told by me and by the guardians that they would be held responsible.

9305. Were the duties of the assistant relieving officers defined?—Yes, I notified their appointments.

9306. And was it clearly understood that they were simply assisting the permanent men?—Yes.

9307. So that the permanent relieving officers might have appointed them to any duty they chose?—Yes.

9308. Did they fill up the application and report books?—They did what they could to assist the permanent relieving officers, and acted according to the instructions they received from them.

9309. Did they do their work properly?—Fairly.

9310. Did the relieving officers appoint gangers?—The guardians laid out the roads to be made or repaired and then there was a ganger appointed for each road.

9311. Who were the gangers so appointed?—They were supposed to be destitute persons also, and they got a shilling a week extra.

9312. Was that paid in the form of food?—Yes, as the men himself was supposed to be destitute.

9313. Was the relief entered in the "provisional" column of the application and report book?—Yes.

9314. In every case?—Yes.

9315. How soon after the relief was absolutely given were the application and report books looked up by the guardians?—They did not go into every individual case.

9316. Did they ever go into individual cases?—They did not, for it would take them several days to do so.

9317. So that the relief works were in the hands of the relieving officers the whole time?—Yes.

9318. And the guardians exercised very little personal supervision?—Well, they made some inquiries from day to day, but it would be impossible to go into individual cases because there were some thousands.

9319. When you say they made inquiries from day to day, do you mean to say that the whole board of guardians made inquiries in these electoral divisions? What I mean is, that when the books came before the board, inquiries were made, and the guardians of each division made inquiries assisted by the clergy of the districts.

9320. And if anything was seen that the local guardians did not approve of did they make a report to the board?—Yes; in some cases people went to work and when the relieving officers saw them they arrived at the conclusion that they were not in need of relief, and such persons as those got nothing for their work.

9321. And were the cases of those men brought before the board when the board met?—Yes.

9322. Were these facts brought before the board by the local guardians?—By the relieving officers.

9323. You don't know anything about the administration of the relief except what took place in the boardroom?—No.

9324. Have the books been signed by the guardians?—Yes; they signed the certificate at the end of the application and report book, authorising the relief that had been given and approving of it.

9325. Mr. Robinson.—Had the assistant relieving officers power to sign tickets for meal?—No; there was no authority of that kind given to them, and I warned them against it, and I spoke also about it to the relieving officers; in one instance they asked for authority from the guardians and it was refused.

9326. How did you charge the tools and the salaries of the assistant relieving officers?—I made them electoral division charges, having obtained permission from the Local Government Board to do so, and entered them in "election law, &c., account."

9327. And that was what it was charged to?—Yes.

9328. Why did you not charge them to the union at large?—Because, if I did, some divisions that derived no benefit from the works, and had none of their paupers relieved, would still have to bear their proportion of the cost, and for this reason I brought the matter before the board.

9329. Where are those tools now?—In the workhouse.

9330. Then you did not sell them?—No; some of them were not used and we sent them back and got credit for them.

Bartley Herman, Relieving Officer, sworn.

9331. Mr. Robinson.—You are a relieving officer from Armin?—Yes.

9332. What duties did the assistant under you perform?—He kept the time.

9333. What do you mean by keeping time?—Superintending the works.

9334. Did the assistant relieving officer take the names of the applicants?—Yes.

9335. Did they visit the houses of the applicants?—Yes, to a great extent; but there was not a single man, woman or child on the island that I did not know myself.

GALWAY.
Mr. Robert
Francis
Malley.

Bartley
Herman.

GRANES
Bastley
Heron

9337. Did you visit the works yourself?—Yes.
9338. How often?—Once a week.
9339. Did you visit them more frequently than that?—Yes, sometimes; there was one fortnight I was not on them at all, but the assistant officer went there and looked after them.
9340. Who appointed the assistant relieving officer?—The local guardian.
9341. Were the assistant officers efficient men in your opinion?—Yes.
9342. Did they know the circumstances of the island?—Yes, they did.
9343. Did they put the people on the works?—Yes, and so did I.
9344. Did any one else put the people on the works?—No.
9345. I suppose there were some persons on the island who recommended certain people as fit subjects for employment on the works?—Yes, there were some such cases.
9346. And then after investigation I presume you authorised them to go on the works?—Yes.
9347. Who supplied the meal on the island to the people?—Every shopkeeper in it; the people were not confined to particular places at all.
9348. Did your assistant fill up the tickets for relief?—No, I did that myself in every case.
9349. How many people were relieved?—About four or five hundred.
9350. Were these tickets printed tickets or written?—There was some portion printed.
9351. What was printed on them?—To give the person so many shillings, meaning the value of the meal to be given.
9352. Was the name of the shopkeeper on it?—No.
9353. So that the person who received the ticket would go wherever he liked?—Yes.
9354. Did you hear any complaint that they did not get good value?—No, in fact when a man could go wherever he liked and get the best value there was no chance of his making such complaint.
9355. I suppose there was a competition amongst the shopkeepers to give the best value they could?—Yes; whereas if the people were confined to one or two places their places would have it too much to themselves and might not give as good value.
9356. Did they give them meal in every case?—They gave them whatever they liked.
9357. Were the people told that they could get anything?—Yes.
9358. For instance, were they allowed to get tobacco?—No; not to my knowledge.
9359. You don't know though?—No; I do not. But if they did it would be very much against what I would wish, and I don't think they did.
9360. There was great poverty on the island?—Yes; there was the greatest poverty you could possibly think of. There was indeed, and if not for the relief there is no doubt that the people would have starved.
9361. Would you say that there was more poverty than there was last year?—Yes.
9362. How do you account for the poverty on the island during the past year?—Well, there were many reasons for it, principally there was no potatoes.
9363. Do you mean the potatoes were bad?—Yes; they were the worst that were ever on it.
9364. What steps did you take to ascertain whether the applicants were destitute or not?—Well, I knew every one on the island myself. I may say there are a good many destitute on it now, and will be destitute. In fact they are as bad now as last year.
9365. Who appointed the gangmen?—The guardians.
9366. Did those gangmen return lists of those who worked on the roads?—No, the assistant relieving officer kept the time, and the gangmen were simply to walk over the works and see the men at the work.

9367. Were the works of any utility?—Yes; they were useful.
9368. Did you make any new roads?—Yes; when there was an old broken that could be made useful to the people it was repaired.
9369. Did they make such roads fit for the traffic of carts?—Well, except the main road there is no need for carts.
9370. Were these become impassable before the works commenced?—Indeed they were; they were not fit to be passed by any beast. The work they did was to break stones and level the road.
9371. Did you fence them?—No, there was no fencing, and they were not gravelled either some of them.
9372. How long did you keep the people working on these works?—About eight hours a day.
9373. How often did they work during the week?—Every day. Some I would pay according to their families. Some would have a long family and would get perhaps nine shillings a week, and a man with no body but himself would perhaps only get four shillings a week or five shillings.
9374. Who had power to determine what relief was given; was it you?—Yes.
9375. That was left entirely to your own discretion?—Yes.
9376. Did you take good care of the people?—I gave them what they earned.
9377. If the people were sick and unable to work, how did you act then?—In such a case I would give them relief of course without working.
9378. Take the case of a man who was a subject for relief and who would not perhaps be entitled to it under the ordinary law, what would you do in such a case as that?—I don't know; there was no such case. There was always one member of a family who could work, and in that way relief was given to the family.
9379. Are there local guardians living on the island?—Yes.
9380. Did you consult the guardians as to the class of people you were to put on the works?—Yes.
9381. When did you write up your application and report book?—I did it at the time, according as the men went to work.
9382. How do you come to the mainland to attend the meeting of the guardians?—I always come by boat.
9383. And how often do you attend the meeting of the guardians?—Once a month; sometimes every three months, according to the weather.
9384. In winter, I suppose, it is uncertain?—Yes.
9385. I suppose it costs a good deal to come backwards and forwards?—Yes.
9386. What is your salary?—£26 a year.
9387. Do you get anything as sub-sanitary officer?—That is all I get.
9388. I suppose it takes you a whole day to come in?—Sometimes, indeed, it takes me two days.
9389. Did you write up your relief lists?—Yes.
9390. Week by week?—Yes, according as I put the men on the works.
9391. Are the accounts in from the contractors?—Yes.
9392. Have they been furnished to the clerk?—I think so.
9393. Mr. Redington.—Do any of the guardians live on the island and south island?—No.
9394. Did you go there yourself to select the proper persons for relief?—Yes.
9395. Who looked after the works there?—There was assistant relieving officers and gangmen.
9396. For each island?—Yes.
9397. Who signed the tickets for them?—I did; I went there specially for the purpose.
9398. Every week?—I did, sir.
9399. Was your book ever brought before the guardians?—It was.
9400. During the relief?—Yes.
9401. How often?—I know it was brought once

Galway
Bridges
Houses.

9401. And the guardians did not sign it?—The guardians here did not.

9402. I see there is what appears to be a certificate of general approval, signed by Mr. Lynch, and above it the signatures of three guardians. I also see the name of Thomas Darnan, his mark. Can he not write his name?—Badly, but he can read that book.

9403. Mr. Robinson.—Did you exhibit this book to the local guardians?—Yes.

9404. How often?—Any time they chose to look at it. They had a committee, and they met occasionally, and the place and the people were as well known that there was no need to go into each case.

9405. Did they know who were on the relief works?—Yes they did, every one of them.

9406. They did not know who were at work on the south island?—Well, no.

9407. Then did you bring those cases before their notice?—Yes.

9408. You had a large number of people on your list?—Yes; I am afraid there will be a large number this year, too.

9409. Were they destitute?—Yes; I don't think that any man would be looking for that relief work only he wanted it badly.

9410. Mr. Robinson.—I find 1,363 cases in receipt of relief on the 5th of June, and no person on the next week. How do you account for that?—They were out of because the works were stopped.

9411. What became, then, of these destitute people? They had to do without it.

9412. But were they able to do without it?—Well, they had to do it.

9413. They did not die?—No.

9414. Well, how did they live?—Well, there was only one week they were left without it, and they were able to get along partly by the relief they got before, and times just then might not have been so bad. I may mention that I had no supply of tickets myself, and the people managed to get help here and there from their neighbours.

9415. Were they working during that time?—No.

9416. Did the works stop?—Yes, for a few days.

9417. Do you know exactly how long they were stopped?—I can't exactly say. It was done by order of the guardians.

9418. How long altogether?—Was it for a week?—I think about a fortnight.

9419. Yet it is not a curious thing that there were only 680 persons in receipt of relief the week following that stoppage for a fortnight, as compared with 1,363 the week before the stoppage took place. Now, I want to know what became of the people during that fortnight?—I can't say, except that they lived. Of course there was hardship and distress, and no man that had anything at all would go and let another man starve, and they got some little help from their neighbours, and that, with the relief they got before, made them go through without hurt, but they were distressed, and badly distressed, all the same.

9420. Then they were living on their own resources?—Well, badly. They got something from their neighbours.

9421. Was there any increase in the ordinary outdoor relief during that period?—Yes; there was.

9422. To a very large extent?—Yes.

9423. I think you are mistaken, because by reference to the return I find that there is a large diminution in the ordinary outdoor relief. Certainly there was a diminution for the week ending the 13th of June, so

that it must be assumed, therefore, that it was their neighbours who supported them?—Yes; there was that, and there was also a little fishing, so that a man might be able to live for a week.

9424. Yes; but could men live for a fortnight who were in a state of absolute destitution?—Well, no one would be allowed to starve there as long as I could give them a bit.

9425. I have no doubt of that, but how could you give it to 1,363 people?—No, of course not; still if I had a lot in the house I would not see a man starve. Besides, some of them were working portions of the fortnight.

9426. Mr. Robinson.—As a matter of fact did these people get relief during that fortnight, that is during the fortnight the guardians had struck them off?—Yes, those that were worst got relief tickets filled that fortnight.

9427. During the fortnight that the guardians struck them off?—I know the worst cases got relief.

9428. Did every one you relieved appear on the relief list?—Yes.

9429. Then it would appear that no one got relief during that fortnight?—The list would call, but in that case I filled in the ticket for the fortnight.

9430. But that was for the week before that, and already passed?—I cannot now say.

9431. As soon as the guardians instructed you to cut off the relief works did you do so?—Yes.

9432. Mr. Robinson.—I am not quite sure that you could have understood Mr. Robinson's question. How do you account for the fact that in the third week, the 26th of June, there was such a falling off. How is it that we find only 618 people on relief as compared with 1,363?—That is because of the order of the guardians I knocked them off.

9433. Very well. How was it possible for you to knock them off without injury?—I did it by order of the guardians.

9434. Mr. Robinson.—What was the effect of knocking off two thirds of the people from the works?—It was the order of the guardians.

9435. Yes, but what happened to the people?—They had time to sell their cattle. The fair was coming on in June.

9436. When you knocked off that 1,360, did they get some money to live on elsewhere?—Yes; they sold their stock and cattle on the 5th of May, and then they had a way of living.

9437. So that after the 5th of June they had money of their own?—Yes.

9438. Why did you put on these people for relief after that?—Because they wanted it.

9439. What did they get for the money which they got for their cattle? Surely they did not spend it all in a week?—They paid a little rent with it.

9440. Mr. Robinson.—When did the new potatoes come in in your district?—About the 30th of June; at least the foundation did.

9441. Is the crop good this year?—It is reasonable. It is not so good as it used to be. It is, however, something better than last year.

9442. Is this the kind of ticket that you issued?—Yes (ticket produced).

9443. You say, "Please supply provisions"?—Yes.

9444. So that they can get provisions in any shape they like?—Yes.

9445. But only provisions?—Yes, provisions only; but I did not see what they got on the ticket.

Mr. Patrick Callahan, Relieving Officer, sworn.

9446. Mr. Robinson.—You were a relieving officer during the administration of the Act?—Yes, I had Annadown, Liskeam, Belleville, and Anghin divisions. They were my divisions.

9447. Had you work going on in these divisions?—Yes.

9448. How many assistants had you?—Two.

9449. How were their duties?—Well, they had to go on the works at nine o'clock in the morning and they remained until six o'clock, and they saw that the people continued at work, and they kept the return for me when I was not able to go myself.

Mr. Patrick
Callahan.

GUAR-
—
Mr. Patrick
Coffey.

9450. Had they power to put people on the works?

—No.

9451. Who had that power? Were you able to put them on the works?—Yes. When the works were opened at Annadown and Liskenan about one hundred people gathered there.

9452. Do you mean that they went on the works?

—Well, they got notice that the works would be opened, and I came there and I saw them, and I called on the priests of the parish to come with me, and I asked if there were any not entitled to tell me, so that I might take note of them.

9453. Who is the priest?—It was the reverend Father Lawrence and Father O'Flaherty came with me, and I did not take down the names of those who were considered not to be entitled.

9454. Did any of the people work and not get anything for it?—Yes, some of them worked for a few days and then they stopped.

9455. When did you fill up the application and report book?—Every night.

9456. Did you issue tickets for relief every night?—Yes; I issued them all myself every night and I used to write them myself.

9457. Were all the tickets given out by you in the same way as that described by the last witness?—I filled up the tickets for four shillings or five shillings or six shillings; I did not put the names of the persons who were to supply the provisions in those tickets or where they were to get relief, but each ticket had on it the name of the person who was to get the provisions, and was signed by me. It was understood that it was usual they were to get it, but they had leave to go whenever they liked to get it, and I didn't know myself where they would get it.

9458. Were your application and report books written up week by week?—Yes.

9459. Did you tell the guardians about them; were they submitted to the Board of Guardians?—Yes, but in some cases the Board hadn't time, the pressure was so great, and it was too much trouble to have them fully initiated.

9460. Did you bring in your books every week?—Yes.

9461. Did you tell the guardians exactly how they stood?—I told Mr. Mallory.

9462. But the books were never initiated?—All the names were looked after by the guardians of the division, and they put their initials to them.

9463. Did they look over the books?—They mostly did.

9464. What do you mean by mostly?—Well, Mr. Joyce lived in the middle of the division, and he mostly knew almost everyone, and he would have a perfect idea of whether the case was a right one or not.

9465. Did Mr. Charles J. Kane look over the book?—Yes, he made several inquiries, because he is a guardian.

9466. Did he examine the whole of this book?—No.

9467. He looked at a page here and there?—Well, he looked through it.

9468. Did he take note, as guardian of the division, that the book was correctly written up?—Yes, the guardian of the division stood by, and as he knew how each case was, and whether it was a right and proper one, it was considered all right if he approved of it.

9469. Did you inquire at the house of every person on the works?—No, not everyone, but I mostly knew every one of the people; in fact I had known them for twenty years.

9470. Why did you not inquire at the houses?—I could not.

9471. Do you mean that you hadn't time?—I hadn't time. I used to be up all night issuing tickets.

9472. So that in point of fact you hadn't time?—No.

9473. What did the assistant relieving officers do?—They used to keep the time and to see that the people were at work, and the private information I

would get from them as to doubtful cases would be useful to me.

9474. Had they power to leave the works to make inquiries about the people?—No, but they knew the people themselves. The assistant relieving officers knew every case of those working on the roads, because they lived amongst them, and they also knew the chief ratepayers and spoke to them, and to the parish priest, and they marked off those who were not entitled to relief.

9475. Did you give relief to persons who had actually pigs?—I did.

9476. Did you consider that they were destitute?—Yes, for some could not sell them; it was all very well to have those things, but what use were they when they could not get money for them.

9477. Did you give relief to any persons who had sheep?—They were very few who had sheep.

9478. Would you consider a man with five head of cattle destitute?—I would not, but I tell you how it would be. If he had along family, and had even five cattle, and if they were in a bad state and he could not sell them, and if he brought them to a fair and he would be obliged to throw them away for nothing, but if they were offered for sale and he could get anything for them at a fair, I would not, of course, give anything in the way of relief to him.

9479. Then your answer is that if the cattle were offered for sale, and could be sold, you would not consider the man destitute?—Yes. Sometimes a man would be in such a position that although he might have made if he could not make anything of them, or had to sacrifice them, and if such a man were in debt, he might be a proper subject for relief.

9480. If a man had a hundred sheep would you give him relief?—No, indeed, I would not give relief to a man who had five cattle if they were for sale and he could get anything for them, nor even if he had three.

9481. How did you know the exact circumstances of the persons who were employed upon these works? I myself knew them for twenty years.

9482. Did you know sufficient of their means to give them relief without further inquiry?—I made all the inquiry I possibly could from the guardians of the district, and from the large ratepayers, and they helped me very much in forming my opinion as to whether they were proper subjects or not.

9483. Was there very great pressure during the administration of the relief in your district?—Yes, indeed I hope never to see such a state of things again. Indeed I would not take the position again for any consideration. There was a great deal of annoyance about it, and sometimes I had to write about a hundred tickets, and no one can know what trouble it was.

9484. Do you think that only destitute people got relief during the administration of the Act?—To the best of my opinion that is so. Of course I may have been deceived, but there was no complaint by the guardians, by the priests, or the big ratepayers.

9485. All these cases that were ruled, were they cases of relief given provisionally?—Yes.

9486. Did you make inquiries into them every week?—Yes, and twice a week.

9487. If the guardians looked at the books and gave orders there would be no necessity to give relief provisionally?—All I can say is that the guardians gave me every assistance they could in the bedroom and out of it, and more even out of it than here.

9488. Did they give you any assistance in the bedroom?—Yes, indeed, the guardians were as anxious in the matter as I was myself.

9489. What assistance did they give you in the bedroom?—Any private information they might have about the circumstances of the people, or whether the man applying to go on the works might not be fit subjects. The guardians would not like any case to be on without seeing that it was a deserving case, for it might be said by certain people that certain cases were not entitled to be on, and there was a good

deal of anxiety shown to prevent anything in the nature of abuse.

9490. On the 25th of May the guardians signed your book. Did you give relief after that?—Yes.

9491. Did you bring your book before the guardians after that?—No, but I told them they had the book here. The guardians knew the case, the local guardians having inquired into them.

9492. As a matter of fact the guardians generally did not know who were getting relief after the 25th of May?—No, I won't say that, because most of them did.

9493. You did not get the guardians to examine the books after the 25th of May?—They told the labour was too hard on a few guardians to go through the whole list, there was such a great pressure.

9494. I think you said you would give relief to people who had cattle if you thought it was undesirable; how would you know the cattle was undesirable unless you visited their houses?—I would likely meet a neighbour who would tell me such a man has a heifer that is not fit to be sold; and if that was the case, and the man had no other reason, I would give him relief. I had to attend four days at four relief roads, and one day here.

9495. How far are the roads from your house?—Six miles each.

Mr. Owen Egan, Relieving Officer, sworn.

9502. Mr. Reffington.—What is your district?—Spiddal.

9503a. How many assistant relieving officers had you?—Five, one for each division; I had five divisions.

9503b. What duties did you put your assistants to?—To keep time, and take a list of the names of the houses and families, as well as the children.

9504. Had you gingers besides?—Yes.

9505. What did they do?—They looked over the people working to see if they worked the time given to them.

9506. So that the entire duty of inquiring into the destitution devolved on you?—Yes.

9507. What steps did you take to inquire into the condition of the people?—I got the gingers and the assistant relieving officers to supply a private list of what cattle and means they had.

9508. How did they get that information?—From members of the families working at the works.

9509. And would they tell them the facts, do you think?—Well, if they would not tell them they would not tell me.

9510. But if you inquired at their own homes would you not ascertain their circumstances more accurately?—No.

9511. Did many people put themselves on the works without authority?—When the works were authorized by the Board the points near the parishes brought in a list of so many to go to work on the roads, and in or about that number went to work, and then, after inquiries, if I found anyone who could do without it, I knocked them off.

9512. But it was impossible for you to make personal inquiries in each case?—Yes, the work as it was, was too much for me.

9513. Had you much trouble with the people?—Yes, I thought my life was in danger.

9514. How was that: did they threaten you?—Yes; they stopped my car, and it was as much as a man could do to deal with them.

9515. So you had rather a hard case to play?—Yes, indeed.

9516. Did you burn the tickets yourself?—Yes.

9517. And signed them?—Yes.

9518. Were they open tickets on any shopkeepers?—Yes.

9519. What was on the ticket?—The amount, the

9496. In different directions?—Yes.

9497. When going to the roads could you not go to the villages?—I knew the state of each of the houses; besides, even if I went to their places I do not think I would learn more than I knew.

9498. But it is the duty of the relieving officers?—So I would do it in the case of ordinary out-door relief; but with 200 or 300 persons applying, keeping accounts and writing tickets, it was very hard to be strict.

9499. In Annaghdown, after the 25th of May, you stopped the works for three weeks, and though there had been 245 persons on relief, you stopped altogether, and put no one on apparently?—There was an order of the Board for that, and I put them on ordinary out-door relief, and got the cases (initialled) by the Board, and the other parties got their cutting.

9500. Was there then an increase of out-door relief?—Yes; the worst cases were put on ordinary out-door relief.

9501. There were 245 persons in receipt of relief in Annaghdown on the 25th of May, and no relief was then given for three weeks, and then fifteen persons were put on; do you think that they could have been destitute if they were able to get on during the interval without any relief?—Some of them got hard-working and other employment, and the bad cases I put on breaking stones.

number of days work, and the clerical division chargeable to.

9520. Did you fill in the books?—Yes.

9521. When did you fill in the application and report books?—Well, I was not able to fill it the same week, but before the works were finished I had it all done.

9522. In consequence of these threats you speak of, and the fact that you were dealing as it would appear with rather troublesome people, were you obliged to put more persons on the works than you otherwise would have done?—I do not say that, but, of course, if I could have inquired more closely, and there was not so much of a pressure, I might have kept more off.

9523. If there were no threats, and the people were more submissive, would you have set more off than you did?—I do not think so. It was the parties who were cut off that threatened me.

9524. That is what I say. Did you not find yourself influenced by these threats to keep more on than you might have done?—Perhaps, but when cases were represented to me I could not keep people off, because I would be afraid of their starving.

9525. When were your application and report books written up?—I was doing them occasionally; just when I had time.

9527. Had you time to keep them written up to date?—No, I could not do that at all.

9528. How did you fill these up?—From the assistants' lists.

9529. Did they give you the name of the townland?—Yes.

9530. Had you your books here at the Board?—Yes, I had them here.

9531. Were the books examined?—They went over the books here.

9532. Every day?—No, not every day; they thought it too much trouble. We had the opinion of the Chairman and he intimated some, and to send it would take him his whole time to go over it, and they then made it a rule to have a general certificate.

9533. All your relief was provisional?—Yes.

9534. You continued your inquiries from week to week?—Yes.

9535. Did any persons receive relief under the Act who were unable to work?—There would be some member of the family able to work.

SAWYER,
—
Of Patrick
Catholics.

Mr. Owen
Egan.

General.
Mr. Owen
Kyn

9535 Did you get any assistance or advice from the local guardian?—Yes, in some cases, and in every case I acted on it as best I could.

9537 Mr. Robinson.—Did the guardian from Kilsomins examine the books?—Yes.

9538 Did the guardian from Spiddal look through the books?—He was here one day and looked through them. I am not sure if he did so often.

9539 What date was that?—Some day before the works stopped.

9540 Did the guardian of Furlough go through them?—Yes, he went through them himself.

9541 Did the guardian from Kilsomins examine them?—Yes.

9542 In your divisions 3,014 persons were in receipt of relief during the week ending 5th of June, and there was nobody in receipt of relief the next week. What became of them?—The men who made a pound's worth of Indian meal would be able to get along, and, besides, there was some work under the pliers and roads.

9543 Surely a pound's worth would scarcely suffice from the 5th to the 5th of July?—Together with whatever other little means they would have.

9544 Did you give any of them one pound's worth in one week?—No, one pound's worth they would earn in four weeks.

9545 But on the 5th of June there were 3,014 persons in receipt of relief, according to the application and report books. The works were stopped then, and no more relief was given in your division?—No.

9546 Then, how did those people live in the meantime?—All they got before helped them on, together with anything they could get.

9547 Was not that relief given to keep them alive from week to week?—In some cases it was not given up to date, for I had so many tickets to give out that I could not do it.

9548 But do I understand you to say that the relief which they got during the four weeks was not all used by them, but enabled them also to go on when the relief stopped?—No, not exactly, but it would help them a little, and whatever their families might get to do just at that time.

9549 The relief given was intended to last them during July?—No, I do not say that; but they were able to pull through, and there was something done

too in the way of collecting periwinkles, so they could earn a couple of shillings.

9550 Does that account for the 3,014 falling off?—Do all the people in your division live along the sea coast?—Yes, from Furlough to Kilsomins.

9551 Is your explanation that they did not spend all the relief they got at the time they got it, but kept it until June or July?—No, but that they would be able to spare some of it, and the family earned something in other ways.

9552 Why did you give them more than was necessary for the week?—I could not pay them less than the number of days they earned—i.e. a day was the scale fixed.

9553 Mr. Robinson.—Every day you gave relief at the scale fixed by the guardians?—Yes.

9554 Mr. Robinson.—Do you know Nicholas Kinnelly, of Spiddal?—Yes.

9555 He received 2s. one week and 7s. the next. Could he have spared much out of that?—He has a bog off his holding.

9556 Could he not cut that?—It might be done by his family.

9557 Was the turf saved on the 29th of May?—I do not doubt they would have some. They cut it early in that part of the country.

9558 Mr. Robinson.—I think you said you were unable to write up the tickets each week?—Yes, and sometimes I gave a ticket for nine days' labour on one ticket.

9559 Were you ever obliged to withhold a ticket for a fortnight?—I don't doubt but there was a few nights; but the doctors in the country would give them relief if they knew they were on the works.

9560 You say a fortnight may have passed in that way?—Well I am sure nine days did.

9561 Was that the utmost?—To the best of my belief.

9562 Did you give out the tickets in your own house?—No, but in the villages around.

9563 Why did you not let your assistants do that?—I understood from Mr. Mulvey that they were not to get that authority.

9564 They were to assist you?—Well, I was afraid to have any other man's handwriting on them but my own.

John Hooley, Relieving Officer, sworn.

John Hooley.

9565 Mr. Robinson.—You were a relieving officer during the administration of the Act?—Yes.

9566 What were your divisions?—Three; Moyoulka, Slieveanna, and Tallalake.

9567 Was the Relief Act in operation in each of those cases?—Yes.

9568 Which was the most destitute?—Slieveanna and Tallalake was the same.

9569 How many assistants had you?—Three; one for each.

9570 What was their duty?—To take down the numbers of the family and keep the names.

9571 What were the gangers?—To keep them at work.

9572 The relieving officers only took the names?—Yes, and they saw them at work. The gangers were dispensed with the first week.

9573 You inquired into the circumstances of the people?—Yes.

9574 Considering that you had three assistant relieving officers, was not the distribution of labour rather uneven?—No, for these men supervised the work too.

9575 Was not that the gangers' duty?—Partly it was.

9576 What inquiry did you make in the different cases?—I had every knowledge of their circumstances at the time, and went through the villages.

9577 How often?—The first week and second week.

9578 Did you go after that?—No, because it was exactly the same class of people.

9579 There was great pressure?—There was.

9580 And were you worked very hard?—Yes, I had not an idle day for four weeks.

9581 Did many persons go on the works without being authorized?—Yes, they did.

9582 Did you give them tickets?—No; any person whom I considered not destitute I did not give a ticket to.

9583 Did they threaten you?—No, not very hard.

9584 Did they threaten you?—No; I had a duty to perform, and I would do it independent of them.

9585 Did they do much work before being struck off by you?—Some worked for about three days.

9586 Was they put on by any persons but yourself or the assistant relieving officers?—Well, it was a general belief that anyone could get work.

9587 The theory was that it was a public work?—Yes, and that they all could get work, no matter whether they were destitute or not.

9588 How many did you strike off the first week or fortnight?—I could not say.

9589 Would you say about 50 or 100?—Yes, and over 100.

9590 At the commencement?—Yes, the first week.

GALWAY,
John Hally.

9591. Did they ever go on again?—Fourteen or fifteen did in one division.

9592. And did you strike them off again?—I did; I told them to go off.

9593. Did you issue tickets each week?—Yes, each week in succession from the first week. From the first week I issued them regularly once a week.

9594. Did your assistants do that?—No.

9595. Did you make full inquiries as to the destination of the people?—Yes.

9596. Did you write up your application and report books?—Yes.

9597. Were the assistants efficient men?—Yes.

9598. Could you trust them?—Yes.

9599. Did you write your application and report books up to date?—Yes.

9600. And when did you write up the outdoor relief list?—Well, I did not think until the work was over.

9601. Did you lay the application and report books before the guardians?—Yes, the first week; mine was the first one before the chairman. He intimated three or four cases, and when he found there were 500 or 700, and that it would take him three or four days, he stopped, and the names were submitted to the local guardians of each division, and they examined each case with me.

9602. In the boardrooms?—Yes.

9603. Did they sign the book?—Yes, at the end of each electoral division; the chairman made an order up to that date.

9604. But during the whole period the Act was in operation did the chairman sign the book, except those few cases at the beginning?—Yes; I think the 25th was the last.

9605. That was the second time he signed it?—Yes; the first was the 19th, and the second was the 25th, I think.

9606. Did the local guardians satisfy themselves as to the cases?—Yes.

9607. And it was certified at the end of the book?—Yes, by the chairman.

James Coleman, Relieving Officer, sworn.

9613. Mr. Robinson—In how many electoral divisions in your district was the Relief Act in operation?—In Barna and Galway.

9614. Had you any assistants?—Two.

9615. To which of the electoral divisions did you order him to direct his attention?—To Barna.

9616. No one assisted you in Galway?—No.

9617. Had you relief works in Barna?—Yes.

9618. What was the duty of the assistant?—To look after those persons detailed to work, and to keep the time.

9619. Were there any gangers appointed?—Yes.

9620. What were they to do?—To superintend the work and keep the time.

9621. Then they did what the relieving officer did?—Yes, but there were works in several places.

9622. Were there gangers over those works?—Yes.

9623. And did the relieving officers superintend the gangers?—Yes.

9624. Who looked into the cases as to see whether the people were destitute?—The first week I went round through the different townlands, and got the information, so far as I could, as to the state of the people.

9625. Were you able to make inquiries as to the circumstances of every person seeking relief?—Yes, I went from house to house.

9626. Were you satisfied that each person was destitute?—Yes, I saw that they were destitute.

9627. Who issued the tickets in Barna?—I did.

9628. The relief was provisional in every case?—Yes.

9629. Did you make fresh inquiries before you renewed the relief?—No, but generally after the third week or so; in fact, the guardians of the division

9630. Do you think that the Act was administered as economically as it could, having regard to the rash that was made on the works?—Yes.

9631. Mr. Edington—Were all the cases in the electoral divisions examined by the local guardians and certified by the chairman?—Yes.

9632. I cannot find a certificate for Moycullen?—That was an omission. It was partly my omission. The chairman commenced at the first name—that was on the 19th May—and then at the end of the division he intimated the last names of the divisions, and there was a certificate written at the end of the whole book for the three divisions.

9633. Not for Moycullen?—Well, that was an omission.

9634. How often were the books examined by the local guardians?—Each of the four weeks we attended at this Board.

9635. 431 persons I see were receiving relief on the 5th of June, and none the week following?—There was an order made that the works should cease, and if I found any case that was a deserving one I was to get him to break stones and give him relief.

9636. Did you find any cases that were deserving?—I had a number of applications. I told them I could not give more than 5d. a day, and they said that would not support their families, and some got credit that supported them.

9637. So after the works were stopped you did not find any case which deserved relief?—I offered 8d. a day to them to break stones, but they would not do it.

9638. What became of the destitute people you had relieved up to the time the work stopped?—Some got work from the neighbours. It is generally a time when there is work.

9639. Were provisions cheap?—Yes.

9640. Cheaper in June and July than in May?—Well, much the same.

9641. Is May a harder month for these people than June or July?—Yes.

9642. You were assisted by the guardian?—Yes. I knew every person thoroughly, better than I did myself.

9643. You were assisted by the guardian?—Yes.

9644. Outside the boardrooms?—Yes, I may mention that there was a lot of town labourers called here at a meeting of the Board of Guardians, asking for relief, and the guardians offered them the horse, and they said they would not come in, as they offered them work to break stones at 1s. a day, and they refused, and the following Board day they came again in a body, about sixty or seventy, all married people, and the chairman then providing, Mr. Lynch, left them in the hands of the relieving officers.

9645. Were they able-bodied?—Yes.

9646. People whom you could not relieve under the ordinary Act?—Yes.

9647. And did you relieve them then under the Poor Relief Act?—Yes.

9648. What did you do exactly in these cases?—I went to every house and found out the number in family.

9649. And how much relief did you give them?—In proportion to the numbers in the family.

9650. Did you pay them by tickets?—Yes.

9651. How many weeks did you keep them on the relief?—Only the one.

9652. Did they do any work?—No.

9653. Did you offer any of them the workhouse?—Yes.

9654. And they declined?—Yes.

9655. What told you of the destitution of these people?—I went to their houses, and they were the worst cases I ever saw—for want of fuel, clothes, and provisions.

James
Coleman.

GALWAY.
James
Coleman.

9649. There was no employment for them in the town?—No.

9650. What happened the following week?—The following week a lot of ships came in and they all got work.

9651. On the quays?—Yes.

9652. Discharging vessels?—Yes.

9653. Did you submit your books to the Board?—Yes; they were examined, but they could not go through them case by case.

9654. As a rule the guardians of the division approved of all persons whom you put upon the list?—Yes.

9655. What works were done at Barna?—The works consisted of making roads in three or four townlands.

9656. Mr. Redington.—You submitted the Galway book to the guardians at their meetings?—No; Mr.

Mulvey said I had not fulfilled the law by giving them employment. That was the case that I have already spoken about.

9657. So that, as a matter of fact, you gave the relief on your own responsibility?—Yes; the men were destitute and, without doubt, I had no other alternative.

9658. The Barna book seems to be very well filled up. It gives each case carefully noted, and all the facts connected with it are set forth very clearly and very well. And you gave relief after the 15th of May?—Yes.

9659. And did you then bring the book before the board?—Yes; but as I understood, they were not going into the cases, and would not sign them. However, there was no doubt that in no case was any man put on the relief work, so far as I am acquainted with, who was not really destitute.

Mr. Charles J. Keme swears.

Mr. Charles J.
Keme.

9660. Mr. Redington.—You are the vice-chairman of the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

9661. I believe there was great destitution in the union during the administration of the Poor Relief Act?—Yes.

9662. How long did it last?—Well, about a month or five weeks.

9663. When was it at its height?—I should think about the latter end of June.

9664. On the 5th of June you stopped the relief work?—Yes.

9665. Was there not a certain risk in doing so?—Yes; but we did it in consequence of very strict injunctions which we received in a letter of instructions from the Local Government Board, and we were making the utmost endeavour to try that none but persons who were really destitute and in poor circumstances were benefited by the Act, in accordance with the wish of the Board.

9666. What instructions do you refer to?—The sanction the Local Government Board gave to be careful that none should receive relief but those who were destitute.

9667. But was it your opinion that there were no people destitute at the time you stopped the work?—No; but at the same time when the lists were being revised and corrected an opportunity was given for examining each case personally, and strict injunctions were given that in every case where a person was destitute he was to be relieved under the ordinary Out-door Relief Act. That prevented any serious risk. There was a great rush at the opening of the administration of relief, and I have under knowledge myself that there were a great number of persons who made an effort to get portion of the relief without being entitled to it. Many of these got upon the works, and for the purpose of removing them we stopped the works for a short period.

9668. In your opinion, when you stopped the works was relief given to the persons who were really destitute?—Yes, that is my opinion. There is no doubt whatever that we took every precautionary step to see that no one suffered.

9669. What is your division?—Annaghdown.

9670. There were 242 persons in receipt of out-door relief on the 29th of May, and in the three weeks following it would appear that no person got relief?—Well, I believe that may be so.

9671. Would not the necessary inference be, assuming that for these three weeks no relief was given, that the 242 persons who had been receiving it up to the stoppage of the works did not really require it?—That inference could be drawn, but I believe myself that the people were in very destitute and straggling circumstances at the time. Between picking down their little crops, and the lowness of prices, I daresay they had to make something on credit. For instance, I am aware myself that some of these people had to pledge

all their own little things to be able to get seeds in the ground, and these persons were undoubtedly in a very destitute condition. Indeed, many persons whom you would imagine to be in fairly good circumstances would come to me and talk privately to me, and from what I could learn it was perfectly obvious that from the condition of the time they were as poor as poor could be.

9672. Well, but in June were they not as poor as they were in May?—Well, I do not doubt that.

9673. Then the question is, how did they get on in June—those 242 who had been in receipt of relief?—They must have got work on credit, or a friend may have given security for them, or helped them.

9674. But could they not have got credit in May as well as in June?—Well, the new potato crop was coming on.

9675. Still, it seems strange that there should be such a difference in their position, contrasting May with June, assuming that they were absolutely destitute in the former month. I see that none of these books were initialed by the presiding chairman, except the general signature at the end?—Yes, I recollect that circumstance very well. I happened to be the presiding chairman on the occasion that the books were put before the board. Mr. Board was present at the time. We were after having a day's work examining into all these circumstances, and one of the books was laid before me, and I found I would have to go over it through about 400 or 500 names. I objected to do it under these circumstances. I was giving a great deal of my time to the service of the public, but this appeared to me to be a herculean job. Besides it occurred to me that it was not absolutely necessary. I said I would sign it. It could be done in the form of a certificate by the proper officer—the guardian certifying that he had fully examined all these names, and was acquainted with the cases, and he stating that, in his opinion, they were all entitled to relief. I then signed the book. I think that carried out the spirit of the Act.

9676. In each case you had a verbal certificate of the local guardian?—Yes; his approval.

9677. Were they always present?—Yes, I think they were. I signed no book unless the guardian was present, and expressed his approval of the cases. I refused distinctly to sign the book without having the guardian present. One day the guardian for Salsburgh division was not present. The clergyman of the district was present, and I think I declined to sign it, even for him. I mention this merely to show that I was most anxious to do all in my power to prevent abuse.

9678. Was the Spiddal guardian present?—I think so.

9679. Did you give instructions to the relieving officers as to the future relief?—No.

9680. To the best of your belief did the guardians

carefully investigate each case!—Yes, and it was one of our most painstaking duties to see that no case was left on but one deserving of relief.

9484. Do you know anything personally of any division, except Annaghdown?—No; I would like to refer to the evidence of Mr. Coleman as to the application of the working men in the town. I was present. We felt deeply the position of these men. There was a great dearth of labour, and we commiserated their position, but we felt we had to comply with the law. I believe there were nearly a hundred who came up to the house, and we asked them, if they were so destitute, would they go into the work-house. Some were agreeing. Others said "No." They consulted amongst themselves, and declined to do so. I believe their objection was to have the stigma of pauperism upon them prevented them. Then, on consideration, we asked them would they, under the Relief Act comply with the terms of it and do work to enable them to the relief and they said they would and then they retired, and I think twenty or thirty agreed to take refuge in the house, and under that impression we called the master and inquired as to the accommodation to receive them. The master said that in twenty-four hours he could provide ample accommodation to receive them, and before the Board dissolved they came in to say they would not come into the house. It was then we put the question would they do work qualifying them under the Poor Relief Act, and some said they would. So there was then a decision as to what sort of work would be provided for them, and there were a lot of stones at the New Docks, and we said if they would break these it would comply with the test. We then gave instructions to Mr. Coleman—knowing that a good many of them were really in great distress from want of employment and with large families—to go and visit their homes and see if they were in the wretched state they represented, and that if they were it was in his power as relieving officer to deal with them. These were the circumstances. Shortly afterwards some little shipping came in, and employment was then available.

9482. Did they refuse to break stones?—No; I do not think they refused. At least some of them did not.

9483. Mr. Robinson.—Was the distress very exceptional at that time?—Unfortunately it was very great, and last year it was more excessive than before.

9483. You attend the Board meetings pretty regularly?—There was not a meeting that I was not present at.

9484. Do you think the system of giving out-door relief is a desirable way of meeting distress under such circumstances?—I think not.

9485. Is there any other method that suggests itself to you as desirable?—Well, investigating these cases during the Relief Act, we felt that some of the strongest cases that required relief were those struggling poor cottiers with bits of land in the country, and who had no seed to crop the land except what they got through the charity of friends and by pawning their clothing—as many of them did—and I think that if in cases of that kind a few pounds could be given to them—even as a loan—to stock their land, it would be better than relief, for I think that relief of that kind is more demoralising than anything else.

9486. Do you think the Board of Guardians is the proper organisation to carry out relief works?—No; I thought it was admirably thrown upon as by the special circumstances and great destitution of the time, but, nevertheless, it was an extra labour that should not be thrown on us at all.

9486. Do you think you would have got rid of some of the responsibility by appointing extra relieving officers?—No. I think that the local knowledge of the relieving officers enabled them to see that none but proper cases were put on, as they knew the circumstances of the people. The reason so much was thrown upon the permanent officers, was that they were more responsible and would be more careful than men who would be here to-day and away to-morrow, and thus it was that we threw the care on him of signing tickets, and considering carefully into each case.

Patrick Dooley, R.L.O., swears.

9487. Mr. Robinson.—What is your division?—Oranmore.

9488. Fifty-eight pounds was the amount of relief given there?—Yes.

9489. Were you able to give assistance to the relieving officer?—Yes.

9490. Who was he?—Mr. Young.

9491. Was any assistant allowed him?—Yes.

9492. Were any of the works carried on in the neighbourhood of your residence?—Yes, all within a mile of it.

9493. Do you think that the Act was economically worked?—Yes, as far as we could we endeavoured to see that none but cases of real destitution were put on. We formed a little committee. There was a parish priest, and the curate, and a few of the ratepayers. We considered all the cases, and endeavoured to see that there should be no abuse.

9494. And you considered the case of every person?—Yes, as far as we could.

9495. And I presume you advised the relieving officers as to the action they should take?—Yes, they could not put on any person without us.

9496. And you gave them directions to put certain persons on?—Yes.

9497. What was the payment given to the persons put on the work?—First B was 1s. 6d., and we reduced it afterwards.

9498. And you know that that arrangement of having Local Committees was the same as prevailed in other districts?—I do not know whether that was so or not.

9499. Mr. Redingtree.—Do you think you ran no risk in stopping the relief works?—Well, it was hard, but we chanced it. We had three very poor villages in our division.

9500. Did not the people want relief so much in June as they did in May?—Well, they might have the opportunity of going to Antrim for the purpose of picking peawinkles; but strict directions were given at the time to the relieving officers at the time the work ceased to see that no persons who were in a condition of destitution failed to get relief.

9501. Do you know the road to the Castle of Oranmore?—Yes.

9502. Is the work done there a useful one?—Yes.

9503. And where does it lead?—It leads down to the quay.

9504. Does it not stop at the Castle?—No.

9505. Does the road which was made lead down to the quay?—It does.

9506. Was there relief given in other divisions besides Oranmore?—Oranmore is a very poor division. The people there are always very poor, I would like to draw your attention to that. The population is very large, and the valuation is very small.

Galway.

Mr. Christie.
Kane.

Patrick Dooley, R.L.O.

GALWAY.

Mr. Michael
Fallon, P.L.C.

9707. Mr. Robinson.—What division do you represent?—Anghrim.

9708. There was some relief given in your division during the administration of the Act?—Yes.

9709. And you stopped it for some time?—Yes, we were afraid the ratepayers would have to pay, and there is not a poorer division in the whole union.

9710. Would not that rather be a reason for giving relief than for stopping it?—Well, certainly, there are no people who want it more.

9711. And yet you stopped the relief for fear of having to pay for it?—There is no doubt in the world that the people there have been, and are, in great want and distress, and we were afraid afterwards to carry on the works.

Mr. Michael Fallon, P.L.C., sworn.

9712. Were the works useful and necessary?—Yes, they were useful. They consisted of roads leading on the public road.

9713. You assisted the relieving officer as to discriminating in selecting the cases?—Yes, and advised them not to give employment except to those who were in want.

9714. When the applications and report books were brought before the guardians, did you inquire into the cases?—I did.

9715. That was before Mr. Kane signed the book?—Yes.

9716. And you have no objection to raise with reference to any of the parties who received relief under the Act?—No.

Matthew Finn, P.L.C., sworn.

Mr. Matthew
Finn, P.L.C.

9717. Mr. Robinson.—What division do you represent?—Ballinacorney.

9718. You heard the evidence of the witness, Mr. Dooley?—Yes.

9719. Your division refused?—Yes; there were works there, and I went myself to them, and I could see that no person was employed upon them except persons in distress.

9720. You were perfectly satisfied that every person getting relief was entitled to it?—Certainly.

9721. Why then did you stop the works on the 5th of June?—We were afraid that the ratepayers would be charged for it.

9722. What because of these people during the time those works ceased?—Well, they managed to get on.

They got some wooding to do, and there was some little employment, though not very much.

9723. Is not July the worst month in the year?—June, I would say, is the worst.

9724. And yet you gave no relief during the whole of June?—I know that there were three weeks during which no relief was given.

9725. Can you give any explanation of that? Does it not occur to you that it requires explanation that you gave no relief during the worst month of the year, and when the poor would be supposed to be very badly pressed?—There is no doubt they were very poor, and I could not say how they supported themselves except by wooding and such work.

Mr. James Morris, P.L.C., sworn.

Mr. James
Morris, P.L.C.

9726. Mr. Robinson.—Your division is Special?—Yes.

9727. There is a very high rate, I believe, at Special?—Yes.

9728. As to the administration of the Relief Act what steps did you take?—I endeavoured to see that it was properly administered so far as I could, and that no person took advantage of it except those who were entitled.

9729. Did you advise the relieving officer as to the persons who were to be relieved?—Yes.

9730. Did he carry out your instruction?—Well, I think he was half-afraid.

9731. Did they threaten him?—I think so.

9732. And in consequence of that, did some persons obtain relief that those who absolutely required it?—Certainly; I may mention an illustration of the manner in which things were going on. Mr. Charles Kane was in the chair at the time. I fought very hard against the way in which the relief was being given, because I was afraid it would be put on the ratepayers afterwards; and I did not approve of the way in which the relief was being given, and because there were people in it who I did not think were entitled to it. There was a person, for instance, with fifteen head of cattle who got relief.

9733. Mr. Robinson.—What was the name of that person?—Patrick Finlarty is the name.

9734. And you objected to this case at the time?—Yes; it was as one I objected to. Not alone did I object to it (it was not in my division), but there were several ratepayers who sent in a requisition complaining of this individual case.

9735. Were there any other cases of a like nature?—I do not know any individual cases, but I believe it was quite a general business.

9736. And you objected as a ratepayer?—Yes, I reside in Galway, and I objected on the part of the ratepayers. I may say that in my opinion the system of meeting distress of this kind by giving out-door re-

lief is not a good or satisfactory one. In my opinion, it is absolutely demoralising. The way in which the work was done was very unsatisfactory. It was quite a slipshod business. It was stated that they used to lie down under walls and hedges, and someone suggested that they should be supplied with cards in order that they might amuse themselves. I always advocated the interests of the poor, but I don't think that this method of meeting distress is a wise one.

9736. Did you not look over the books?—I do not think I approved of it, except in the case of ordinary out-door relief. I voted myself against the giving of out-door relief to any who had cattle. For I considered that no one should get relief who had several head of cattle.

9737. And do you know the cases of such persons who got relief and had cattle?—I am quite certain that in most of the cases they had cattle. Mr. Kane may remember the statement I made here one day—that I would wash my hands of the whole affair altogether. He said it was not so easy.

9738. Were you here on the 5th of June, the day the works were stopped?—My name would appear on the books.

9739. Do you think that no risk was run in your division by stopping the relief?—No.

9740. Why?—Because I think that if the relief was given in really destitute cases as ordinary out-door relief it would be better.

Mr. Kane.—I wish to supplement my evidence. The question was asked why we stopped the works at a period when the distress was prevalent, and was so severe. I considered that more fully, and I answer it, and would say that what strikes me now is really the proper answer to the question. A powerful reason for stopping the works for a short period was in consequence of a circular of the Local Government Board to tell us to be careful, and also it was ascertained what electoral divisions the Local Government Board would consider to be fairly well circumstanced and we felt

we were between two fires—the ratepayers, if we insisted upon them a very large expenditure, and the Local Government Board, for we did not know how it would view it. I believe myself that there were very many people living in great difficulty, and were very badly off by the stoppage of the works, but we thought it better to wait and to leave them to trust to the charity of their neighbours, than to have the whole division put in an absolutely bankrupt condition.

With that view, it was frequently insisted on the relieving officers to be most careful in examining into all the extreme cases, and to deal with them as ordinary out-door relief.

Mr. Edgington.—The circular contained the words that the Board "had no desire to place any obstacle in the way of the guardians to afford relief where required."

GARWAY.
Mr. James
Davis, P.L.O.

Mr. Cornelius G. O'Connor, P.L.O., sworn.

9741. Mr. Robinson.—What is the name of your division?—Furbough.

9742. What action did you take during the administration of the Relief Act?—I went out to meet the ratepayers, and got a list of those whom we considered destitute people. We completed that list in the National School house. We then went to the works, and called out a list of the names of people, and told the relieving officer not to give relief to any but those on the list. There were two or three of those who were then there, who went away.

9743. Did you consider that as far as Furbough is concerned, only the poorer people got relief?—Yes.

9744. You were not personally acquainted with all the poor yourself?—We took the list from ratepayers. We had the assistance of the curate of the parish.

9745. The relief is very small in that division?—Yes.

9746. In consequence, no doubt, of the precaution which you took?—Well, I suppose it is to be accounted for in that way.

9747. You were able to reduce them on 1st of June, and strike them all off on the 5th of June?—Yes.

Mr. Cornelius
G. O'Connor,
P.L.O.

Mr. Hugh Davies, P.L.O., sworn.

9748. Mr. Robinson.—Your division is Moyculkin?—Yes. In my division, contracting its financial position with those adjoining, I got a result so as to give it its due proportion of the relief, but the Local Government Board refused. I do not think there was a division poorer than it, especially in the mountain parts. When I got instructions from the Board to get relief works, I cautioned the people that they would have to pay for it by and bye. A few, to the number of seven or eight, were employed, when we got this circular from the Local Government Board. But I

may say that the paying capacity of that district is much smaller than almost any other division.

9749. You only spent £17?—Yes, and £17 five times over could have been spent. It was a turbary district.

9750. Notwithstanding the amount of relief you got, the only debt against you is £6, so you will be able to afford that?—It all depends on circumstances. But the means of this division are exceedingly small.

9751. You certainly kept the relief well within bounds?—Yes, that is because I cautioned them.

Mr. Hugh
Davies,
P.L.O.

Mr. Robert P. Malley, Clerk of the Union, recalled.

9752. You have handed in a return of the liabilities of the union on the 29th of September, exclusive of expenditure under the Poor Relief Act?—Yes.

9753. And the assets on the same date, exclusive of expenditure in grants under the Poor Relief Act?—Yes.

9754. Are these returns accurate?—Yes.

9755. From these returns, kindly state what was the balance in favour of the union?—£1,894 17s. 3d.

9756. Of that balance a large amount is in favour of one electoral division?—Galway.

9757. What is the amount?—£1,385.

9758. And the balance in favour of other divisions?—£518 odd.

9759. What is the balance on foot of the Treasury account at present?—There was a balance against the union on Saturday of £670 12s. 6d.

9760. Are there any arrears of rate out?—Yes, £445, on the 29th of September.

9761. Are the warrants still in the hands of the collectors?—The old ones are not, the new ones are.

9762. Is there any Parliamentary grant that has not been paid as yet?—No.

9763. As to the estimates, you got them as well as you can?—Yes.

9764. Under the head of in-door maintenance and clothing of paupers, what do you bear your estimate out?—It is estimated at £7 10s. per head.

9765. And how do you estimate the number of paupers?—I took an average of two years.

9766. And you regulated the rate of maintenance on the same basis as last year?—No; not exactly, because the contractors' prices are lower.

9767. What is the average weekly cost per head?—It is about 2s. 8d. or 2s. 8½d. for maintenance alone.

9768. Are there any divisions affected by the Poor Law Rating Act?—One, Galway electoral division.

9769. To what extent?—About £150 or £160.

9770. The estimate for out-door relief is £1,000?—How do you estimate that?—I took an average, and I also took in the balance due on the Poor Relief Act.

9771. You added that to your estimate?—Yes.

9772. What is the ordinary out-door relief in this union as a rule?—It is about £80 off that.

9773. It is over £1,000?—Yes.

9774. What class of people are those on out-door relief?—Old and infirm people.

9775. Do you think the workhouse test is properly applied?—Yes, I should think so.

9776. Do they give relief to people who are not sick—to old people?—Yes.

9777. How do they know that they are destitute?—The Galway guardians are most particular, and some one of them is sure to be personally acquainted with the cases that arise.

9778. Is the relief given provisionally?—Very rarely provisionally.

9779. Would it be possible to reduce the out-door relief?—Impossible. I do not think a single shilling is spent on it unnecessarily.

9780. There is £188 spent on Arran—that, I presume, is provisionally?—Yes.

9781. There is a difficulty in that case of removal to the workhouse?—Yes, they would risk their lives coming.

9782. There is a great difficulty in managing Arran?—Yes.

9783. The establishment charges—is that less the same as last year?—It is a trifle less, I think.

9784. Is there a lower price for rations?—No, that

Mr. Robert P.
Malley.

GALWAY.
Mr. Robert F.
Molloy.

would not be included, except officers' salaries; but we had necessity for some improvements for the workhouse which would not be necessary now.

9783. About £1,800 a year would be the average?—Yes.

9784. Burial, collection, election, law, and other expenses, are they mostly union charges?—Some are union and some divisional charges.

9785. Sanitary expenses are not union charges?—In part union and divisional charges.

9786. How do you regulate your estimate for that?—The average for the past two years, and I catstaid all exceptional circumstances.

9787. The medical charities is a heavy item in this union?—Yes; there are three medical officers.

9788. Three dispensary medical officers?—Yes, it is divided into two districts.

9789. Is that, in your opinion, a necessary expenditure?—Well, Galway itself is a pretty large town, and then there is Aran.

9790. For towns of the average size of Galway it is not usual to have two dispensaries?—It has been so here from the commencement.

9791. Is the cost of Aran Island assessed over the Galway district?—It is amalgamated with the Galway dispensary district.

9792. Are two medical officers in the workhouse necessary?—I could not say; it was so before my time.

9793. What are the number of sick cases in the workhouse?—About eighty.

9794. And there are two doctors?—Yes.

9795. How many hospital nurses?—Three paid nurses, and proper assistants.

9796. Can you tell me how the duties of these two medical officers are apportioned?—They divide the wards between them.

9797. Do the guardians think too necessary?—I could not tell that; there used to be only one, but the change was made fifteen or sixteen years ago.

9798. And was there a very great improvement in the condition of the patients after the two were appointed?—I cannot say that.

9799. Were there complaints before?—No; not that I know of.

9800. Are the estimates for medicines in the dispensary districts heavy?—Some of them are reasonable enough.

9801. Do the guardians check them and scrutinise them?—They are supposed to be brought before the Dis-

pensary Committee, and if I say, when they refer to me, that I think the estimate heavy, it is referred to the Local Government Medical Inspector.

9802. You do not think it possible to reduce this estimate?—Well, no.

9803. There is a large balance in favour of Galway—how do you account for that?—In my estimate of last year I took it that there would be a large increase in out-door relief. The bag factory was stopped; charitable relief came in; £50 a week was spent by the St. Vincent de Paul Society; and there was undoubtedly a great amount of distress.

9804. Mr. Robinson—Is the factory closed?—Yes.

9805. What does it take to work this union supposing there was no exceptional charges?—About £7,000 a year or more.

9806. Mr. Robinson—When was this estimate laid before the guardians?—On Wednesday, the 17th November.

9807. Did they agree to a full rate?—Yes; in the electoral divisions of Annaghdown, Barna, Parborough, Lamlashore, Killymore, Moyanilla, Beldina, Spiddal, and Sherrinmore.

9808. In the other divisions was there a reduction?—Yes, three pence in each division. I may mention that the guardians took the course they did in reference to these rates with a view of pointing the fact that there were exceptional circumstances and that these rates were impossible rates as you will see from the return.

9809. But by making and striking the rates did they not show they were possible?—Well, their object in striking these rates was as stated.

9810. Why did they reduce the others by three pence?—There was a vote taken on it.

9811. Was there any reason given?—The guardians were of opinion that the estimate was too high.

9812. Is it the opinion of the guardians that these rates are too high for the ratepayers to bear without hardship?—I can safely say yes; though they struck the rates they felt that it would be impossible to collect them.

9813. Have you the resolution by which this was submitted to the Local Government Board?—There was no resolution.

9814. How were they to convey that the rates struck were too high?—They knew that the Commissioners were to sit here.

Mr. Koss recalled.

Mr. Koss.

9815. Mr. Robinson—How was it that this course was taken with reference to the rates?—We thought, as this Commission was coming here, the proper thing for us to do was to put forward our liabilities for the year, and not to strike off, as is usually done, 1s, 2s, or 3d. We hoped that something would be done for us by your report.

9816. As you have signed the rates and warrant it would seem to have been final?—Well, the question arises, is this rate recoverable? In 3d. is the rate for the present year in my own division, and knowing the circumstances of that division, and that the people are very poor, and that this year promises to be worse than last year, I don't see how they are to pay; 3s, 3d. is, in my opinion, as high as 4s. 6d. would be last year.

9817. Would it not have been better under the circumstances to have struck a lower rate?—Well, we felt that if there is a disposition to help as there is a means of doing it.

9818. If you received any money to help you in this division this rate would have to be collected as it is struck?—No.

9819. What would you do?—If we are relieved we could apportion it and reduce the rate.

9820. Then you would have to pass a resolution rescinding this rate?—Yes; we did this merely for the purpose of bringing it before you.

9821. Our report is not to the Local Government Board, but must go before the Government, and it may be some time before that report is dealt with?—Well, the Galway Union got a small share of the special relief grant, and I certainly think we are entitled to be relieved of the outstanding liability, and in saying that I speak for all the divisions.

9822. You think the liabilities should be wiped off?—Yes. In fact there must be something done, for we won't be able to pay it.

9823. When was the warrant signed in the case of Annaghdown?—The collector is getting it I believe.

9824. And Barna?—He has got it.

9825. When did the collector get it?—Last week.

9826. Has he got anything?—No.

9827. Inasmuch?—He is getting it today, and the collector for Killymore and Sherrinmore the same.

9828. Could 6s. 7d. be collected in Inasmuch?—Impossible.

9829. What would be the effect of endeavouring to collect it?—You would have to auction off the people.

9830. Are they in a worse position in Aran than they were?—Well, they have just been living on the charity of the world, the great bulk of the people. It has been notoriously before the world, I regret to say.

9831. Could you form an opinion as to what rate they could pay at Aran?—As small as possible it must be, but I could not say what.

Mr. C. O'Connor, F.R.S., recalled.

9834. Mr. Robinson.—Were you present when these rates were agreed to?—I was here when the guardians agreed to take 3d. off the divisions, and I objected to take it off Spiddal as being too little. I came to the conclusion that taking off 3d. would deeply make them worse.

9835. Could the people of Spiddal pay the rate fixed on (4s. 1d.)?—No, it would be absolutely irrecoverable. One or two might be able to pay, but not the

majority. The turf is very much neglected, and it used to be a great source of revenue.

9836. It was neglected?—Yes, in consequence of these works.

9837. Is not the price of turf higher?—Yes, and that is better for those who have it; but those who have it are those who did not avail themselves of the relief work.

9838. What would you levy on Spiddal?—1s.

GALWAY.
Mr. C.
O'Connor,
F.R.S.

Michael Fisherty (collector) sworn.

9839. Mr. Robinson.—Would there be much difficulty in collecting the rates this year in Ararat?—Yes, it would be very hard indeed.

Mr. Dawson, F.R.S.—As to the proceedings the day the rate was struck, the reason several guardians adopted the reduction of threepence was, that the Commissioners would relieve those places where the Relief of Distress Act had placed a burden upon the people.

Michael
Fisherty.

9840. What is the difficulty?—I don't know, sir.

9841. Are the people worse off this year than last?—They are nothing better.

9842. Are they better able to pay rates this year?—I do not think so.

9843. Mr. Robinson.—It was 1s. last year and 4s. before that; had you much difficulty in collecting that?—Yes.

Now, of course, it may be stated by some people that the people are as well able to pay this year as last, but I differ from that. In my district I know they are poorer, and I am sure that is the general experience.

9844. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think the rate in Moyaulen high?—Yes.

Mr. Timothy Kyme, F.R.S., sworn.

9845. Mr. Robinson.—Your division is Shevemaun?—Yes.

9846. Did you agree to the rate struck?—No, I was not here.

9847. Are the people there as well off as last year?—No.

9848. Was a 3s. 6d. rate collected there with difficulty?—Yes, with much difficulty.

9849. Do you apprehend that there will be the same difficulty in this case?—Yes, and more.

9850. What rate could you collect in Shevemaun?—Perhaps 2s.; but I know they are getting from bad to worse. They have no means.

9851. Does not the landlord pay portion of the rate?—Half the rates, but it is quite as difficult, and more so, to get it from the landlords.

Mr. Timothy
Kyme, F.R.S.

9852. The collectors have more difficulty?—Yes. With regard to the dispensary districts we have to complete that Moyaulen and Spiddal were one dispensary district, and were made two with the result of two medical officers. I am about thirty-four years a guardian, and I saw Dr. Davis attending the dispensary at £40 a year, but then the change was made.

9853. Do you think the expenditure under the Medical Charities Act should be reduced?—I do.

Mr. John Madden sworn.

9854. Mr. Robinson.—What do you wish to say?—Merely that the ratepayers think the rate for Tuolkynne is quite too much; it is 2s. 6d.

9855. Is that abnormally high?—Yes, and they

can't pay it. It would be more difficult to collect 1s. 6d. now than 2s. last year.

Mr. John
Madden.

9856. What do you think could be collected?—1s. 6d. might be.

Mr. James Lane, F.R.S., sworn.

9857. Mr. Robinson.—What is your division, Mr. Lane?—Kilcummin.

9858. 2s. 6d. has been agreed to as the rate?—Yes.

9859. Did you agree to it?—Yes.

9860. Did you anticipate difficulty in collecting it?—Yes, for the people are very poor there.

9861. I see they collected 2s. 10d. two years ago, and 4s. three years ago?—It was easier to pay 4s. three years ago than 2s. 6d. now. They have no turf now.

9862. Mr. Robinson.—Why have they no turf?

—They lost a good deal of time over these works, and there was a good deal of cattle died of hunger last spring.

Mr. James
Lane, F.R.S.

Mr. Lane.—There was a feeling among the guardians, where the Relief of Distress Act applied, and where the rates were abnormal, that they did not wish their assent to the rate to be taken as an indication of their belief that the people could pay such a rate, but simply that the actual liability should be put forward. We do not think the people are in a position to pay these large rates.

Mr. Malley, Clerk of Union, recalled.

9863. Mr. Robinson.—Is this return (produced) an accurate return of the rates outstanding?—Yes; we have carried forward £274 16s. 6d.; that includes poor rate, and rate, and burial rate.

9864. How much poor rate?—£168 18s. 1d. It was necessary to strike off £168 8s. 2d. as irrecoverable.

9865. How many instalments of the said rate have been paid?—Three, and portion of the fourth. In fact all we owe is £212 10s.

9866. How much is actually due?—£322 18s.

9867. Is that collectable?—There is only £180 8s. 6d. considered collectable, and we struck off £133 2s. 4d., and I think a portion of the £168 8s. 2d. might also be struck off.

Mr. Malley.

Mr. Robinson.—Does any gentleman propose to offer us any evidence suggesting any changes in the boundaries, by which the taxation can be lessened without injury to the poor?

There being no further evidence,

The Inquiry closed.

SUPPLEMENTAL INQUIRY RESPECTING AMALGAMATION.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 1887.

BALLINA UNION.

The Commissioners opened the Inquiry in the Boardroom of the Workhouse.

Mr. Redington.—The scope of our inquiry to-day is more limited than at our previous sittings. At Ballinacree the proposal was made by the guardians that in order to assist them to meet their difficulties it was desirable to amalgamate their union with Killalea and

Ballina—we did not therefore wish to come to any definite conclusion without affording the guardians of Ballina an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the subject of such amalgamation.

P. W. McFady, Clerk of Union, sworn.

Mr. P. W. McFady.

9825. Mr. Redington.—You are Clerk of the Ballina Union?—Yes.

9826. Can you give me a statement of the charges on the union at large in this union—first, as regards establishment charges?—Salaries included, £1,558.

9827. What is the charge for union at large paupers?—£280. The out-door relief does not exceed £5 a year.

9828. Have you formed any opinion as to how these establishment charges would be affected by amalgamation with the two other unions?—No; I have not the valuations of the other unions, or the number of paupers.

9829. Have you any idea, for instance, what increase would be made in the establishment charges of this union in order to work the amalgamated union?—I cannot say with any certainty.

9830. Take the clerk, for instance—would you be able to work the amalgamated unions with your present resources?—I have no assistant now, and I would require one.

9831. Have you the list of salaries?—It is in the return I have supplied to you, and which is accurate.

9832. You have no assistant?—No; I have not had since September twelve months.

9833. What is the master's salary?—£78—that includes value of rations.

9834. You have not formed an estimate of the increased duties that would be thrown on him?—No.

9835. Mr. Robinson.—Is he not paid for the entire of his time—to devote the entire of his time to the Board?—Yes.

9836. His salary is not increased according to the number of inmates?—No.

9837. What is the matron's salary?—£48, including value of rations.

9838. Mr. Pratt.—Things are cheaper this year?—Yes.

9839. Mr. Robinson.—If we increased the numbers in the infirmary would an increased number of attendants be required?—Yes.

9840. Can you tell me how many paupers there are in the house altogether at present—what is the average?—About 180 winter and summer. There are 163 at present in the house.

9841. And in the infirmary how many on an average?—Eighty-eight or ninety.

9842. In the fever hospital are there any at present?—No.

9843. How many relieving officers are there in the union?—Two.

9844. I see down here amongst the officers, a tailor—what does he do?—He makes the clothing for the establishment.

9845. Does he teach the boys?—Yes; the boys are sent to him; but he only works half time here, and they don't derive much benefit from it I think.

9846. You have had pauper nurses in the hospital?—Yes, two; but they were discharged by the doctor.

9847. Have you able-bodied men who are assistants in the infirmary?—Yes.

9848. There is a lot of spare room in the workhouse?—Yes; there is only about half the workhouse filled.

9849. The guardians are able to give accommodation to the militia?—Yes. And at present there is part used by the National School, pending the construction of their own building.

9850. How long has the school been in course of construction?—About four months.

9851. What part of the workhouse did the guardians give them?—The wing at the side which was not being used.

9852. Do you know the comparative weekly cost of the paupers here and in Killalea?—No.

9853. When were the contracts last taken?—Last September 25th.

9854. Your duties, I presume, would be increased if there was an amalgamation scheme carried out?—Yes.

9855. In what way?—There would be additional clerical divisions, and the duty of keeping accounts and looking after correspondence would be proportionately increased. There would be additional relieving officers and rate collectors, and the duty altogether would be greater.

9856. What salary did you give your assistant?—15s a week.

Mr. Burke (collector).—The assistant was brought in on account of the relief work. He never had, properly speaking, an assistant.

9857. Mr. Robinson.—What do you think you could get a good and efficient assistant for?—£1 a week I should say.

9858. In what period of the year is your work heaviest?—From March to July.

9859. How many relieving officers are there in the union?—Two.

9860. Where do they live?—In Ballina one, and Crossmolina the other.

9861. How often does the Crossmolina man attend?—Every week.

9862. And how often do the rate collectors attend?—Each alternate Tuesday.

9863. Have you much spare time now?—No.

9864. What is your salary at present from all sources?—As clerk of the union, £125; returning officer, £10; executive sanitary officer, £30; clerk to local authorities, £30; clerk to Board of Health, £15; Parliamentary votes, £20; jurors' lists, £18 13s. 6d.; from Registrar-General, fees as Superintendent-Registrar, about £8; paid by Government last year under the Franchise Act, £28. Total, £294 13s. 6d.

9865. At the present time you are just able to dis-

charge your duties!—Well, I have an assistant at present unpaid—my brother, who helps me when there is a pressure.

9908. If you had any additional duty you could not discharge it without assistance!—No.

9909. Mr. Daly.—Do you work here many hours?—Yes, and I work at home.

9910. Mr. Redington.—You have no spare time!—No, I work here from ten to four, and I do not think in office work I would be expected to do more than that.

9911. Mr. Robinson.—I see the veterinary inspector gets £34 a year—is not that unusually high?—He gets £200 from the four unions, and his position is assessed on the valuation of those unions.

John O'Harewood.

9917. Mr. Redington.—You are the master of the workhouse!—Yes.

9918. What is the number of paupers in the workhouse?—175 was the number last night.

9919. Is this a part of the year when there are many or few?—About the average number. There are rather more in March.

9920. The total accommodation is 1,075!—Yes.

9921. Have you made any measurements of the workhouse for Poor-law inquiries!—No.

9922. Of that 175 how many are of the healthy class?—Eighty-nine, and the remainder sick, but of the eighty-nine twenty-seven are aged and infirm.

9923. How many children!—Thirty.

9924. So practically there are very few healthy in the house!—Yes.

9925. Mr. Robinson.—How many healthy have you as workmen or assistants!—Thirteen; two men and eleven women.

9926. Have you ever had the infirmary full?—It is generally full.

9927. Is it overcrowded?—No, there is generally the full number.

9928. Is it not a fact that in the infirmary the main wing is given to the militia—portion is used by them!—Yes, it would not be so crowded but for the militia.

9929. Where are the infirm men?—Mixed among the sick.

9930. And if they had their own ward, and the militia were not there, there could be no overcrowding?—No.

9931. Where are the able-bodied men?—They sleep in the male side of the house, but their day-room is in the infirmary.

9932. Do you know how many there are in the infirmary now?—About 85.

9933. How many militia come into the workhouse?—About 200. It is supposed to accommodate 250 militia.

9934. Do they occupy the wards in the main building?—Yes, but there are about three of those wards they do not sleep in, and they have their guard-room, and so on. They only sleep in one ward on the ground floor.

9935. And do they sleep in the two wards above that?—Yes, directly above that.

9936. And the two wards above that again, is that occupied by them?—Yes. It is the eastern wing, and the three wards directly over each other up to the top they sleep in.

9937. Are they crowded with the 200?—They occupy three other wards along with that.

9938. What other wards!—The boys' wards.

9939. Where are the boys accommodated?—While the militia are here they are over in the female side of the house.

9940. So that when the militia are here there is a general upsetting of the whole classification!—Yes. We occupy no part of the male side when the militia are here.

9941. Is that fixed by the law or how?—It was fixed when he was first appointed, and they agreed to give him that.

9942. Mr. Redington.—The Explosives Act expenses amount to £32. Why do not the magistrates get the police to do that duty?—The guardians have repeatedly endeavored to get them to do it. The guardians have no control. The order is issued by the Magistrates on the Treasurer, and he has to pay it.

9943. What is the capacity of this house?—1,075, including the hospital.

9944. And the average number of inmates you said was 180!—About that.

9945. Have you a contract for an ambulance?—There is a horse kept for the purpose.

Ballinacorney.
Mr. F. W. M'Carthy.

9946. How is the boys' school occupied when the militia are here?—It is occupied by the militia as a store-room.

9947. Do you know the cubic space and floor space allotted by the military authorities to the men?—The militia and military space varies greatly, and we would put twice as many as the militia would into a ward.

9948. So that where they put 200 you could accommodate 400!—Yes, and it would not be half as many in the case of military.

9949. Where are the able-bodied men?—On the female side of the house, but there is a sort of separation.

9950. What ward do they occupy?—The ward that the girls ought to occupy.

9951. And where are the girls?—At the back of the house—the west wing. They are separated, and they have able-bodied women over them.

9952. Are you able to maintain any classification when the militia are here?—Not very well.

9953. Is there any communication between the sexes?—They are shut off, but when any are passing to the infirmary they cannot do it without passing through the female side of the house.

9954. Through the female yards?—Yes.

9955. Do they pass through under the supervision of a responsible officer?—Yes. The girls, I may mention, are locked in the school-room during the day, and occupy separate wards from the women at night.

9956. So that the girls are practically isolated?—Yes.

9957. They use their own yard, and no one has access to it!—No one, except the girls, and they are shut into their dormitories at night.

9958. You have a horse here for the ambulance?—Yes.

9959. What distance do you send it?—Sometimes as far as 12 or 15 miles.

9960. As far as Letterbrick?—Yes.

9961. Are there any paupers from that division?—Yes.

9962. How do they come?—Generally we have to send the ambulance.

9963. How far is it?—About 15 English miles from this.

Mr. Daly.—It is 13 Irish miles and more—sixteen miles the furthest point.

9964. Mr. Robinson.—Can you have a peeper removed that distance in one day?—Yes. The man would leave at twelve and be back at six.

9965. What sort of an ambulance have you?—It is rather roughly but comfortable. We have two—one for fever cases.

9966. Is the carriage of the peepers an expensive item?—Except what is lost by the horse being away. The horse is charged to the farm account. The horse works on the farm as well as conveys the peepers.

9967. So I suppose it is just as much as he can do?—Yes, and he draws the water for us.

BALLINA.
—
Mr. John
Duggan

9964. Is there not water?—No, there is a scheme, but the contract has not been carried out yet.
Mr. Duggan.—It is certainly not the fault of the guardians but of the contractors.

Mr. John Duggan, Clerk of Killybegs Union, sworn.

Mr. John
Duggan

9967. Mr. Robinson.—Are you clerk of the Killybegs Union?—Yes.

9968. What is the average number of paupers in the Killybegs workhouse?—Eighty.

9969. What is your estimate for the coming year?—I have not prepared the estimate yet.

9970. Is eighty the number at present?—It was the number last Saturday.

9971. Is that a fair average number?—Yes, but I am afraid it will be higher next year.

9972. What was the average daily number last year?—164.

9973. How many of these are sick and how many healthy?—Fifty-five sick, aged and infirm.

9974. How many children?—Twenty-four.

9975. You have no fever hospital?—No. There are no fever patients.

9976. Have you a return of the salaries of the officers?—No, I have no return—I got no instructions to have it, but I can tell you.

9977. What are they?—The chaplain has £50 a year (that is the Roman Catholic), and the Protestant £15.

9978. What is the salary of the clerk?—Including all emoluments £140.

9979. And the master?—£14.

9980. And ratons?—No, that is it does not include ratons—ratons and food about £16.

9981. You have a master and hospital master?—Yes, that is £24 a year and ratons.

9982. And the porter?—£5 for the workhouse and £5 for the dispensary, and ratons £5, and suit of clothes and boots.

9983. And the schoolmaster?—The schoolmaster gets £14.

9984. What are the total establishment charges?—For the year 1886, £553.

9985. Is that the average, or is it above or below it?—In 1885 it was £594, so you may take an average between the two.

9986. What is the average weekly cost, per head, for maintenance and clothing?—2s. 7½d.

9987. Does that include clothing?—No, with clothing it would be about 3s. 0½d. It was that up to September last year, I believe, but I will supply the accounts figures afterwards.

9988. Are the contract prices in food and clothing lower than in Ballina or Elphin?—I cannot exactly say, but I can send you the contract prices and they can be compared.

9989. What is the distance from the workhouse in Ballina to Killybegs?—Nine miles, English.

9990. What is the most remote divided division in Killybegs Union from the workhouse?—Belderrigmore. It is portion of Killybegs South, which is six miles—portion of it is—from Killybegs.

9991. How far from Ballina?—I cannot say.

9992. Is Ballyvaughan thickly populated?—Yes.

9993. How far is it from Killybegs?—About seven miles.

9994. And how far from Ballina?—About fourteen miles, Irish.

9995. What are the most populous districts in the Killybegs Union?—Lacken South and North.

9996. Is Killybegs West very populous?—No, not very.

9997. How far is Ballyvaughan from Ballina?—About sixteen miles.

9998. When were you appointed?—In 1873.

9999. The master has been an officer there for a great many years?—As well as I remember, for twenty-three or twenty-four years.

9955. Mr. Robinson.—Have you to employ labourers on the farm?—No, we do not farm much.

9956. How much land?—There is no acre about under tillage.

10000. And the porter?—About eighteen months.

10001. Do you hold any other appointments?—No.

10002. How were you employed before you were appointed clerk of the union?—I was farming a little.

10003. Did you bring before the Board of Guardians of the Killybegs Union the letter of the Commissioners?—Yes.

10004. Had they a meeting?—Yes.

10005. Did they come to a resolution?—Only nine were present; six were for amalgamation with Ballina and three against it, and the whole of them were in favour of Ballina being amalgamated with Killybegs, but entirely opposed to Belderrigmore being amalgamated with Ballina.

10006. Did they give any grounds?—No; they merely talked the matter over. Belderrigmore is a bankrupt union.

10007. Was the question of amalgamation ever before the guardians previously?—Well, I heard them discuss it in a casual sort of way.

10008. Did they make any suggestion to the Commissioners in '76?—I am not aware, but I think if they did I would have heard.

10009. Do you know under what head they anticipated there would be a saving?—Yes; establishment charges.

10010. But, having regard to the fact that paupers in Ballina are maintained at less than in Killybegs, would there not be a saving by their coming here?—Did they make any calculation on the matter?—No, I am not aware.

10011. Have you had an opportunity of ascertaining the views of the ratepayers?—No, except the guardians.

10012. Have you made any calculation yourself?—No.

10013. What would be a fair compensation to yourself for disturbance?—Two-thirds of my salary.

10014. What would that be?—£22 or £23.

10015. What would that be, assumed all over the whole union?—Something over a penny in the pound would be £66 or £67.

10016. Mr. Robinson.—Under the Franchise Act what do you get?—I get £13 last year. Everything else is included in my salary. I was appointed to do a certain thing, and it includes all these.

10017. What do you get as registrar of births, deaths, and marriages, or is it included in your salary?—I do not get that out of the rates, but am paid by the Registrar-General 2½ every case. It is not paid to the Superintendent Registrar.

10018. Who is that?—The doctor.

10019. What is the salary of the medical officer of the workhouse?—£50 a year.

10020. How long is he in office?—Since '77.

10021. Is he medical officer of the dispensary?—Yes.

10022. What is the salary for that?—£30.

10023. Has the expenditure of Killybegs Union increased of late?—No.

10024. Do you think there would be a hardship in removing paupers from Lackan South or North, or Ballyvaughan to Ballina?—No, but there would want to be a hospital at Ballyvaughan.

10025. Would there be more difficulty in removing cases from extreme parts of Killybegs to Ballina than from extreme parts of Ballina to Killybegs?—I think there would be more difficulty in removing them to Killybegs. There should be a hospital, however, at Ballyvaughan. An old woman there fell and got a hurt

and died the day after. She could not have been brought to Ballina. Her residence was Killala.

10089. Have you estimated the rates for the coming year?—Not yet.

10090. Mr. Robinson.—What are your debts at the present time?—I could not say at the present moment.

10091. What are your uncollected rates?—£394 about. There is a balance in the treasurer's account in our favour of £164 or £165.

10092. Is that all you owe the Treasury?—No; we owe them £560 too, for a loan on which we are paying interest.

10093. On what authority?—We had the sanction of the Local Government Board.

10094. Did you ever include in the rate the amount necessary to wipe out this?—Yes, but the guardians always struck it out. For the last four years they struck off sixpence in the pound. First year they struck off one penny, next twopenny, then threepence, and then threepence—in all sixpence.

10095. Can you tell what your debts are?—No; I sent a return some time ago to Capt. Sampson; they were then £1,300.

10096. What can you work the union for?—About £3,000 a year, or a little more.

10097. Has all the seed rate been collected?—There is about £25 or £30 outstanding. There is £340 due to the Commissioners of Public Works.

10098. Was there any reason for striking off the 6d.?—That the estimate was too high.

10099. Was the ratepayers to meet?—No, but for the wants of the union.

10100. Under what head did they consider it a high estimate?—They gave me no reason for it.

10101. Do the majority of the guardians of Killala reside in the divisions they represent?—All do except one, but he knows the wants and feelings of the people.

10102. In the event of Killala being amalgamated with Ballina, would there be a tendency on the part of the Killala guardians to remain away?—I am afraid their visits here would be like angels' visits.

10103. Do they attend at Killala regularly?—Sometimes twelve, sometimes eight, and sometimes ten attend every fortnight.

10104. How many do you generally have?—Between eight and nine.

10105. And you think they would not be likely to attend Ballina?—They would not.

10106. Is Ballina the market town for Killala?—No.

10044. Do the people of Ballinacree have any communication with Ballina?—Yes; it is from there they get their goods.

10045. Ballina is the trade centre?—Yes.

10046. Do all the guardians of Killala occasionally come to Ballina?—That I cannot answer.

10047. Is the railway centre of the union?—Yes.

10048. Do they get their merchandise at Killala by sea or rail?—Partly by one and partly the other.

10049. When by sea, is it landed at Killala or Ballina?—Sometimes one, sometimes the other.

10050. But, as a general rule, I suppose most of their merchandise comes from Ballina?—Yes.

10051. Mr. Pratt.—The valuation of the Killala Union is £20,000, what is the average rate?—I cannot say.

Mr. Robinson.—All are 2s, except Kildinane West.

10052. Mr. Pratt.—What do the establishment charges come to in the pound?—In September, 1885, they were 6½d., in 1886 6½d. in the pound. That was because there were large improvements made.

10053. Where do the relieving officers reside?—At Killala and Ballinacree.

10054. Would they be able to attend here?—Yes, by having their salaries increased.

10055. Mr. Robinson.—Why increased?—Look at the distances.

10056. What increase would you suggest?—I would be inclined to increase it by £15 or £20.

10057. He attends once a fortnight at Killala?—Yes.

10058. Is any inconvenience found from that arrangement?—No.

10059. If he attends here once a fortnight you would give him an increased salary?—Yes, say £15.

10060. He would have to drive certain distances?—Yes, such as from Ballinacree to Killala, and there would be the drive to Ballina.

10061. How much would that be?—Some people get it for 5s., and then he would have to get his dinner.

10062. Would he not get that at Killala?—Oh, he just gets a cake there.

10063. Would you have accommodation for all the Ballina paupers?—Yes; the workhouse would hold all.

10064. How many does it accommodate?—425, I think.

10065. Which would Killala or Ballina be the most central?—Ballina, I should say.

William Cross sworn.

10066. Mr. Robinson.—Are you a guardian of the Ballina Union?—No; but I am a ratepayer of both unions—in both Ballina and Killala.

10067. What is your opinion on the subject of amalgamation?—My opinion is that Killala is much more central than Ballina for the purpose of a union. Ballina is just at the extreme end of the whole three unions. We are near Crossmolina. In fact we are as near Crossmolina as Ballina is—at least the workhouse is. The people from Balderrig and Ballinacree are nearer.

10068. Are you in favour of amalgamation?—Yes; if Ballina was amalgamated with Killala. That is the proper solution.

10069. Have you made any financial calculations leading you to the adoption of that proposition?—No; nothing more than this, that it is more central for the people, and far more accommodating too. And, besides, I think it would involve less expense than any other scheme that could be suggested.

10070. Would it not be a greater inconvenience for the guardians of Ballina to attend at Killala than it would be for the guardians of Killala to attend at Ballina?—No, I do not think so. I think the posting

could be done very conveniently from Killala, and besides that there is some talk of a railway there. The men at Crossmolina are as near Killala as they are to Ballina, so that in point of fact, I don't think that there could be any objection in the way of convenience to the guardians of Ballina attending at Killala.

10071. Do you think the workhouse at Killala would be able to accommodate all the paupers who would be within the amalgamated union?—Yes; at the present time there are some supplemental houses at Killala—that is houses that are not used for the purpose of paupers. There are some occupied at present by turf.

10072. Then you would have to cut up the workhouse into small establishments?—No, I don't think so; it is a good square building like this.

10073. But would it not be a great expense fitting up these buildings that you say are at present occupied by turf, and making them suitable for the occupation of paupers?—No; I don't think so, for some of them are newly slated, and, indeed, nothing is required to be done except just to fit them up with beds and make them nice and comfortable. There are fireplaces, and they are floored splendidly with concrete

BALLINA.
—
Mr. John
Duggan.

William
Cross.

BALLINA
UNION
WILLIAM
CROFTON.

10074. Having regard to the fact that paupers are maintained at Ballina so much cheaper than they are at Killa, would it not involve a loss to have them brought to Killa?—Well, there is no reason that they should be maintained cheaper at Ballina. I can see no reason why that should be so. We have merchants there who get meal and coal, and turf and other things ought to be as cheap as they are at Ballina. Besides the paupers could not bear coming into Ballina from Killa, and I know myself that they say that they are not at all so well treated here as they are at Killa.

10075. Did you ever hear a complaint that they were not properly treated here?—Well, yes; at least from what I have heard the paupers say they don't get as good food here.

10076. Have you heard that from paupers at Killa?—Yes; and there are many who left Ballina just for the purpose of going into Killa.

10077. So that in point of fact they go to Killa because they prefer it inasmuch as they would get better food?—Yes; they get very good food at Killa.

10078. Do you think that many of these paupers who get food at Killa would work outside if they did not get that good food there?—Well, of course, they would have to do so; but I know that they have a disinclination to come to Ballina.

10079. Is the work given to the paupers at Killa less difficult than at Ballina?—Well, no; I don't think they have a great deal to do here, as there is

only an acre of ground. In Killa they have a garden, and it could be worked, and there is every opportunity of providing a good deal of labour for an increased number of paupers. Besides, we have water there, and a very good supply. We have a good pump in the yard, and there is coal, and I think this amalgamation suggested, of joining Killa with Ballina, if I am to judge from the evidence, one would imagine that it is for the purpose of raising the salaries of some, and giving salaries to others for doing nothing more than is done at present.

10080. How do you make out that?—Well, the relieving officer should be paid about £35 or £40.

10081. Do you think that?—Well, I heard it. My own opinion is that the officers are too highly paid at present.

10082. Does that observation apply to this union as well as to Killa?—Well, indeed, it is more applicable to this union than to ours.

10083. Mr. Dwyer.—You think they could discharge more duty—do more work for the pay they get?—I do; and, in my opinion, if the appointments were thrown open to competition, like the contractors, you would get just as efficient officers and get them cheaper.

10084. Have you got the contract for milk in the Killa workhouse?—Yes; and if anyone will take it off my hands I will gladly give it to him.

10085. Mr. Robinson.—Is it a fact that you are one of the contractors?—Yes, and at a rate that does not pay me.

10086. You are not a guardian?—No.

Mr. Charles Knox Goss, Bart., sworn.

Mr. Charles
Knox Goss,
Bart.

10087. Mr. Robinson.—Are you the Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Ballina Union?—Yes, of both Ballina and Killa.

10088. Have you formed an opinion as to the benefit or otherwise of amalgamation?—Yes.

10089. What is your opinion on the subject?—I think that there are strong arguments both ways. There are strong advantages and disadvantages.

10090. Could you mention them?—The chief advantage which I suppose has drawn attention to the matter and made the subject be spoken of for a long time in this—that it is considered that owing to the inclination to give outdoor relief, the great amount of outdoor relief given and the large expenditure on establishment charges, that these latter amount to a much larger sum than is necessary for the maintenance of the number of paupers in the house. I think the idea is that we might manage to keep all the indoor paupers in the one workhouse and with the one staff, and that the result of amalgamating the Killa, or either the joining of the Killa to this Union would be a financial saving to both. In that way it is supposed, and I have no doubt with some reason, that a saving would be effected.

10091. Would you be in favour of amalgamating the three unions of Belmullet, Killa, and Ballina?—I am not prepared to give an opinion as to the advisability or otherwise of amalgamating the three. I certainly do not think amalgamation with Belmullet would be of advantage. But it is not to be forgotten that the officers of Killa Union, in the event of amalgamation, would have to be compensated with two thirds of their salaries.

10092. Mr. Robinson.—No, not necessarily. It would be quite optional.

Witness.—Well, it has always been carried out, and it is only natural to suppose that in carrying out any arrangement, such as that proposed, that these people would not be worse treated than others under similar circumstances in the past, and therefore we may assume that these officers will get their compensation.

Mr. Robinson.—In an amalgamation the cost of compensation would be assumed on the union which lost those officers.

Witness.—Yes, but practically if you carry out amalgamation, and if you figure out you necessarily injure the whole.

Mr. Robinson.—Well, the cost would be assessed upon Killa, and the clerical divisions of Ballina would not have to pay any of it.

Witness.—Another important question arises. If a question arose and it was found necessary to give additional help to Ballina in the way of additional officers or increased salaries that would tell against the economy.

10093. Mr. Robinson.—Do you consider that for the salary you pay your master that he is bound to devote his whole time to the service of the union?—Yes.

10094. In the case of paupers in the union, when an unusually large number would come into the house, his payment is not increased I presume?—No; but a case might arise where it would be necessary to give him additional help.

10095. Do you think that under any circumstances it would be necessary to give the master extra remuneration?—No, I do not think so.

10096. Now, as to the clerk—would it be necessary to give extra remuneration?—Well, I think you will have to give him assistance.

10097. He estimated that at £50 a year. Would you think that reasonable?—Well, I am quite sure that it would if he says it would be reasonable. I certainly do not think it would be excessive.

10098. The clerk's idea is that there should be two—that is, that he should have assistance?—Well, I have no doubt if the duties were largely increased it would be only fair that he should have additional payment or the help of an assistant.

10099. Do you think that there would be any great difficulty in the way of the Killa guardians attending the meetings of the board of guardians at Ballina?—No, I do not think there would be. I have experience of Killa and I believe that they would be able to attend; as their chairman, I may say that they are industrious, attentive guardians, and anxious to do their work well.

10100. Do you think any of the guardians would

be inconvenient?—Well, yes; Beldorrig for instance. In that case there would be an inconvenience, but that is not a matter of very much consequence.

10109. If you had a railway to Belmullet would it overcome your objection?—Yes; but we would have to depend very much, too largely in fact, upon the judgment of the local guardians, and of course we would like to have our own opinion.

10110. In Killybegs you meet once a fortnight, would it be convenient for Ballina to meet once a fortnight?—It would have to be done.

10112. Would the inconvenience of the guardians of the Killybegs board in coming here be lessened by this board meeting once a fortnight?—Yes.

10113. You were a member of the board when the three unions were in one?—No; that was long before my time, I only became a guardian of this union in 1873 or 1874.

10114. Is it your opinion that amalgamation with Killybegs would be beneficial without Belmullet?—I am opposed to amalgamation with Belmullet.

10115. What is your chief reason for that?—Well, I do not see why we should join them, they have been a bankrupt union always, and you would not care to enter into partnership with a bankrupt union.

10116. Mr. Robinson.—The charges would be spread over a very wide area?—Still I do not see any advantage that it would be to us, one portion of the house being rotten would very much weaken the rest. On the other hand, there is no doubt, there might be an advantage to Ballina to be amalgamated with Killybegs, having a better establishment here; but then I see a disadvantage there too. A point that is rather a difficulty in amalgamating with Killybegs is this—what are you going to do with invalids out at my Beldorrig.

10117. Mr. Robinson.—What do you do now, they are not removed?—Yes, and the question is whether it would not be well to have a place for invalids at Ballycastle.

10118. It is only fourteen miles from Ballina?—It would be, of course, greatly a matter for the doctor.

10119. Can you name any union where there are not places fourteen miles distant from the workhouse?—I cannot say.

10120. Assuming an hospital had to be established at one of these distant places, do you think it should be under the Public Health Act or the Poor Law Act?—If under the Public Health Act it would be charged to the district?—If under the Poor Law Act it would be charged to the whole amalgamated union?—I think it should be at the expense of the amalgamated unions.

10121. Why so, when it is only for the benefit of one district?—Well, I cannot say, but it would be, after all, a consequence of amalgamation.

10122. Mr. Robinson.—If the result of uniting Belmullet with the two unions was to reduce the rates in Ballina, would you be in favor of it?—I do not think, having regard to the whole question, that I can fairly say that; though, if there was no loss to Ballina, of course the objection is to a great extent removed, but that should be very clearly shown. I may mention here that a good many of us are of

opinion that the workhouse is not sufficiently availed of in this place. There is a great disposition amongst benevolent individuals to give out-door relief, but I am afraid if you amalgamated the three unions, you would have a great difficulty in providing accommodation.

10123. Mr. Daly.—Has there not been a great saving by out-door relief?—No; in individual cases, no doubt, there appears to be, but the fact of extending or encouraging the development of out-door relief encourages large numbers to apply to it, who probably would not if the first parties were obliged to enter the workhouse.

Mr. Daly.—My experience in Castlerea is, that by giving out-door relief, what cost us hundreds would have involved thousands of pounds if we made them come into the house.

10124. Mr. Robinson.—What test did you apply?—Mr. Daly.—That we knew they were destitute.

10125. Mr. Robinson.—Do you think there is any official means of ascertaining the destitution of persons applying; you must take the word of the relieving officer?

Witness.—The guardian of the district is a good authority. I generally try to elicit the opinions of both.

10126. If Belmullet was amalgamated with Ballina, would the efficiency of the workhouse test be, in your opinion, weakened?—Yes. I do not think the relieving officer would be able to apply the test.

10127. Do the relieving officers apply the test here at all?—I think they do.

10128. In the case of Belmullet being joined, they could not, you say, apply that test to the same extent?—A great deal depends, of course, on the character of the relieving officer. Some men find it more difficult than others to say "no." In this district we derive a great deal of assistance from the guardians.

10129. Do you think that there would be any very considerable increase in the cost of stationary, advertisements, &c., in the case of amalgamation?—There would be some, no doubt, but the printing contracts are very reasonable.

10130. Do you know how the circumstances of the country altered much since the three unions were formed; are there not less people?—No doubt about that.

10131. And less necessity for workhouses, perhaps?—I would not say that, though, perhaps, not the same need for so many.

10132. As I take it, Sir Charles, your objections are, first, to amalgamation with Belmullet, because the result would be injurious?—Yes, to the sick and destitute, and of no advantage to us, so far as we can see.

10133. And that it would involve the management of the affairs of the union being conducted by guardians not acquainted with the circumstances of the people, and that many of the guardians could not attend?—Yes.

Mr. Robinson.—We have received a memorial from the Rev. Mr. Durnan, F.F., Bangor Eire, Killybegs, in favor of amalgamation.

Ballina.
Sir Charles
Knox Gore,
Bart.

Mr. Joseph Pratt, F.R.S., F.R.C.S.

10134. Mr. Robinson.—Have you formed an opinion about the question of amalgamation?—Yes, I am in favor of it so far as amalgamation with Killybegs is concerned, but not with Belmullet. I do not see how we could work with them at all. We have no sufficient knowledge of it, and the guardians would be unlikely to attend here. We have no knowledge of Belmullet that would justify our encouraging amalgamation with it in any shape or form.

10135. Why do you think there would be a bad attendance?—Because of the great distance.

10136. You are a constant attendant at this Board?—Yes.

10137. Do the guardians of the remote divisions of Ballina attend here?—The meetings are chiefly attended by those in or near the town who represent the people.

10138. Can they speak for the people in the remote districts?—They receive information about them which enables them to do so.

10139. Do you think that guardians from Belmullet would attend here once a fortnight?—I do not think they would.

10140. Ballina is the trade centre for Belmullet and not Westport?—Principally Ballina.

10141. If it were shown that a great financial

Mr. Joseph
Pratt, F.R.S.

BALLINA.
Mr. Joseph
Patt, P.L.C.

advantage would accrue from amalgamation of the three unions would you support it?—I do not think we could work Belmullet.

10182. Answering the guardians did not attend it?—Yes; it would be impossible.

10183. What would you want information about?—About the poor of the district.

10184. Could you not trust to the relieving officers?

—Well, no, for then we might not have guardians at all.

Mr. James Daly, P.L.C., sworn.

James Daly,
P.L.C.

10138. Mr. Robinson.—You are the guardians of the Letterfrink division?—Yes.

10139. Do you know the division well?—I hold a farm of land there.

10140. Do you know the condition of the people there?—I do fairly well.

10141. Are they a poor class of people?—As a rule, yes.

10142. Do you think many of them obtain relief in the workhouse?—Not many—there are two from there in the workhouse.

10143. Is there any difficulty in removing cases of sickness to the workhouse?—I never heard of any; in such cases the people would get a trifle of out-door relief.

10144. But when they have had to come to the house have you heard of any hardship in removing them?—No.

10145. If there had been you would have heard it?—Yes.

10146. How long are you connected with the division?—Since 1876, I think.

10147. Have you formed any opinion on the subject of amalgamation?—My opinion is that amalgamation would be of advantage to the whole. I would be for reconstituting all the unions of the county, and of having three instead of nine.

10148. Where?—Three central unions; and I would be more liberal in the way of out-door relief to those suffering temporary distress, and those who are infirm and sickly I would remove to the workhouse in a central place. I would have the young people in industrial schools, which I would constitute, instead of having them with the workhouse brand—to be brought up self-reliant and not a burden on the rates. I am a guardian for two unions and vice-chairman of Coshoburgh Board, which is a well managed board. I support the proceedings of several boards of guardians, and am a pretty good authority as to every union in the county. I would reset all the unions. I do not believe that Swinford should come within a few miles of Ballina, or Westport within a few miles of Coshoburgh. There is only one seaport in the county, and if you had only one union it would be sufficient, and the rates would be half what they are.

Mr. Robert Paget Burke, Solicitor, sworn.

Mr. Robert
Paget Burke.

10185. Mr. Robinson.—Have you formed an opinion on the subject of amalgamation?—Yes.

10186. You are a guardian of the union?—Yes.

10187. For what division?—For Ballina, which I represent for thirty years. The matter came before the guardians on Friday, and I gave it the best consideration I could.

10188. What are your views?—Some people are inclined to think that the unions ought to be left the way they are. I am not in favour of change; but if there is a change it should be to amalgamate Killalea with Ballina. I witnessed the distress in '46 and '47, and am opposed to amalgamation with Belmullet most strongly. I believe it could never be worked, and I think that in the interests of the poor of Belmullet, the distances are too far for the conveyance of paupers. There would be places sixty miles away, and such a

10189. Do the representatives of the different divisions attend here from time to time constantly?—Yes; there is a very good attendance of guardians.

10190. Do you think the situation of Killalea would be of advantage?—Yes.

10191. You would see no hardship to the poor by such amalgamation?—No; we would add £50,000 to the valuation of Ballina, and have very little additional charges.

10149. What would you do with the ordinary paupers?—In this workhouse there are able-bodied females who, perhaps, through some misfortune of their own are sent here, and I would have a reformatory for them. There are twelve or thirteen women here at hospital charges, where two would be sufficient. The poor people get very little of the good things of the house.

10150. Where would you send those able-bodied women?—I would have three establishments. A reformatory for them.

10151. But what would you do with those of good character?—I would have three workhouses, simply—one for each class.

10152. Three workhouses?—Yes. I would have an industrial school for the children, something like a cottage hospital, at Belmullet, so that cases could be looked after there, and the doctor take charge of the entire dispensary district.

10153. What would you do with able-bodied men in Belmullet?—If destitute, give them out-door relief. As I said before, we relieve for hundreds what would cost thousands elsewhere, by the judicious application of out-door relief. The result is that a timely aid of that kind saves people from the workhouse, who otherwise would become permanent charges on the rates for their lives. I know one man, named Hopkins. We gave him seed for his land, from four to six stone, from the 1st of May to August. He put down the crop, and he is now a pretty fair tenant, who would likely have been a pauper inmate but for that. I brought Captain Sampson into his house. He is a tenant of Miss Gardiner's, who is the chief cause of his destitution.

10154. That was under the Relief of Distress Act?—Yes, and it might have been more generously applied. I would be glad to see that Act, not temporary, but a general thing, and if the guardians did their duty it would be a useful measure. I do not say that this union is a paragon of perfection. I do not believe the amalgamation of Ballina and Belmullet will affect the rates of Ballina, but if you extend the area it will reduce the rates by fourpence in the pound.

course as that of amalgamation with Belmullet would simply amount to depriving the destitute of what the Poor Law contemplated they should obtain.

10159. Mr. Robinson.—If they could not be conveyed to the workhouse they could get out-door relief?—But the guardians would not and could not attend, and the thing could not work; and it would subject the poor to insupportable harm and hardship.

10160. Those who get out-door relief would not be affected?—Yes—first, the person should seek the relieving officer; then the vestries of the district and the possible delays are not to be forgotten; then the difficulty of conveying sick and feeble persons.

10161. But at present do they not go long distances to Belmullet?—Well, perhaps it would be a reduction of sixteen or seventeen miles, and the people of Belmullet have been reduced in numbers by one-half in

my time. I think that the establishment charges might be reduced. It was said that if there was amalgamation the duties of the clerk would be increased, but I do not think the clerk would ask for stipends of an increase. I recollect when there was upwards of 3,000 in the house, and the salary of the clerk was £70 a year, and his duties were from morning till night. That is not so it is now.

10162. Mr. Robinson.—Are the rates oppressive in Bellina Division?—Yes, exceedingly.

10163. Is there any reason for enlarging the union on the ground that the rates are very large?—If it is extended I would be in favour of annexation with Killa, of joining it to us.

10164. Mr. Redington.—Are you sure the rates are 4s. 8d. 1—I am paying 4s. 8d. poor rate, water rate, and sanitary rate.

10165. Have you property in Killa?—Yes.

10166. Are the rates high there?—Yes.

10167. Is there any reason for increasing the area of that union by adding it to Bellina?—I think so, if there is to be any change at all.

10168. Do I understand you to say that you would prefer the unions to be left as they are?—Yes; I do not press it, but if it is considered desirable in the interests of the ratepayers or of the poor that there should be amalgamation, then it should be an amalgamation of Killa and Bellina only.

BARRISTER
—
Mr. Robert
Paget Barker

Mr. David Walsh, P.L.C., sworn.

10169. Mr. Robinson.—Are you a member of the Killa Board of Guardians?—Yes.

10170. Are you in favour of the amalgamation of Killa and Bellina?—Yes.

10171. And with Belmullet?—No.

10172. You think there would be a financial gain

by amalgamation, a gain to Killa?—Yes. The valuation is very small (£250,000), and the officials, the staff altogether, receive about £1,000 a year. It is the general opinion of the guardians that there should be amalgamation.

Mr. David
Walsh, P.L.C.

Mr. Joseph Kelly, D.V.O., sworn.

10173. Mr. Redington.—You are the deputy vice-chairman of the Bellina Board?—Yes.

10174. What are your views?—I would be in favour of amalgamating the three unions. I think that the larger the area the lighter the taxation must be. I have not the slightest objection to amalgamate Belmullet with Bellina.

10175. Would there be any hardship, in your opinion, to the poor of Belmullet by amalgamation with Bellina?—No, I think not.

10176. If a person wanted to come to the house from Belmullet would it not be a great inconvenience?—No, unless in certain circumstances. If he was very

bad he could get out-door relief. I would be in favour at the same time of having a hospital at Belmullet.

10177. Do you think the ordinary pauper ought to get out-door relief?—I do, and the guardians would see that it was not abused, knowing that they would have to bear the taxation.

10178. Do you think the guardians would attend here from Belmullet?—Surely; they are here nearly every week, for Bellina is the great emporium.

10179. They spend a night here?—They often spend a week here, without any board to come to at all.

Mr. Joseph
Kelly, D.V.O.

Mr. Bartholomew Higgins, P.L.C., sworn.

10180. Mr. Redington.—You are a guardian of the Bellina union?—Yes.

10181. What is your view on the question?—I would combine Killa with this union, but am totally opposed to Belmullet.

10182. On what ground?—That it is so distant, and I do not want to have them.

10183. If you lost no money by it, would you

object?—I could see no reason for it. It is altogether too remote.

10184. You have just heard that a great many Belmullet guardians spent their time here?—I am quite sure they would not attend the Board regularly. As to Killa, however, I believe amalgamation would be a great saving to the rate payers.

Mr. Bartholomew
Higgins,
P.L.C.

Rev. James Durson, P.P., sworn.

10185. Mr. Robinson.—You are the parish priest of Beagar Erie, Killa?—Yes.

10186. You sent in this memorial advocating amalgamation?—Yes.

10187. Are you of opinion the amalgamation advocated in that memorial would be a benefit?—Yes.

10188. Would it not be an inconvenience to the poor, having regard to the distance?—It would increase out-door relief.

10189. And you do not think the poor would suffer?—No.

10190. Would there not be an increase of pauperism if there was no workhouse test, and out-door relief increased?—No. The people have the greatest repugnance to come into the workhouse, and they would prefer out-door relief, which in very many cases would prevent their becoming permanent paupers.

10191. You say the management of the guardians at Belmullet is bad?—It is the opinion of those who signed that memorial.

Rev. James
Durson, P.P.

Mr. Peter Coleman, P.L.C., sworn.

10192. Mr. Redington.—You are a guardian of this union?—Yes.

10193. Have you formed an opinion on the subject of amalgamation?—Yes.

10194. Are you in favour of it?—Yes, in favour of amalgamation with Killa.

10195. Not with Belmullet?—No. Because it would interfere with the interests of the poor, and the

salaries of the officers, the relieving officers and collectors would of necessity be increased, whilst the great distances and the fortnightly attendance would prevent the due discharge of their duties.

10196. Would the Belmullet guardians attend?—No, I do not believe they would; certainly they would not attend regularly.

The inquiry terminated.

Mr. Peter
Coleman.

RAILWAY UNION.

[illegible]

DOUGHTERLAND UNION.

[illegible]

WINNEFORD UNION,

Electoral Divisions	Age- group	Male	Female	Children	Adults	Over 65	Over 75	Over 85	Over 95	Over 105	Over 115	Over 125	Over 135	Over 145	Over 155	Over 165	Over 175	Over 185	Over 195	Over 205	Over 215	Over 225	Over 235	Over 245	Over 255	Over 265	Over 275	Over 285	Over 295	Over 305	Over 315	Over 325	Over 335	Over 345	Over 355	Over 365	Over 375	Over 385	Over 395	Over 405	Over 415	Over 425	Over 435	Over 445	Over 455	Over 465	Over 475	Over 485	Over 495	Over 505	Over 515	Over 525	Over 535	Over 545	Over 555	Over 565	Over 575	Over 585	Over 595	Over 605	Over 615	Over 625	Over 635	Over 645	Over 655	Over 665	Over 675	Over 685	Over 695	Over 705	Over 715	Over 725	Over 735	Over 745	Over 755	Over 765	Over 775	Over 785	Over 795	Over 805	Over 815	Over 825	Over 835	Over 845	Over 855	Over 865	Over 875	Over 885	Over 895	Over 905	Over 915	Over 925	Over 935	Over 945	Over 955	Over 965	Over 975	Over 985	Over 995	Over 1005	Over 1015	Over 1025	Over 1035	Over 1045	Over 1055	Over 1065	Over 1075	Over 1085	Over 1095	Over 1105	Over 1115	Over 1125	Over 1135	Over 1145	Over 1155	Over 1165	Over 1175	Over 1185	Over 1195	Over 1205	Over 1215	Over 1225	Over 1235	Over 1245	Over 1255	Over 1265	Over 1275	Over 1285	Over 1295	Over 1305	Over 1315	Over 1325	Over 1335	Over 1345	Over 1355	Over 1365	Over 1375	Over 1385	Over 1395	Over 1405	Over 1415	Over 1425	Over 1435	Over 1445	Over 1455	Over 1465	Over 1475	Over 1485	Over 1495	Over 1505	Over 1515	Over 1525	Over 1535	Over 1545	Over 1555	Over 1565	Over 1575	Over 1585	Over 1595	Over 1605	Over 1615	Over 1625	Over 1635	Over 1645	Over 1655	Over 1665	Over 1675	Over 1685	Over 1695	Over 1705	Over 1715	Over 1725	Over 1735	Over 1745	Over 1755	Over 1765	Over 1775	Over 1785	Over 1795	Over 1805	Over 1815	Over 1825	Over 1835	Over 1845	Over 1855	Over 1865	Over 1875	Over 1885	Over 1895	Over 1905	Over 1915	Over 1925	Over 1935	Over 1945	Over 1955	Over 1965	Over 1975	Over 1985	Over 1995	Over 2005	Over 2015	Over 2025	Over 2035	Over 2045	Over 2055	Over 2065	Over 2075	Over 2085	Over 2095	Over 2105	Over 2115	Over 2125	Over 2135	Over 2145	Over 2155	Over 2165	Over 2175	Over 2185	Over 2195	Over 2205	Over 2215	Over 2225	Over 2235	Over 2245	Over 2255	Over 2265	Over 2275	Over 2285	Over 2295	Over 2305	Over 2315	Over 2325	Over 2335	Over 2345	Over 2355	Over 2365	Over 2375	Over 2385	Over 2395	Over 2405	Over 2415	Over 2425	Over 2435	Over 2445	Over 2455	Over 2465	Over 2475	Over 2485	Over 2495	Over 2505	Over 2515	Over 2525	Over 2535	Over 2545	Over 2555	Over 2565	Over 2575	Over 2585	Over 2595	Over 2605	Over 2615	Over 2625	Over 2635	Over 2645	Over 2655	Over 2665	Over 2675	Over 2685	Over 2695	Over 2705	Over 2715	Over 2725	Over 2735	Over 2745	Over 2755	Over 2765	Over 2775	Over 2785	Over 2795	Over 2805	Over 2815	Over 2825	Over 2835	Over 2845	Over 2855	Over 2865	Over 2875	Over 2885	Over 2895	Over 2905	Over 2915	Over 2925	Over 2935	Over 2945	Over 2955	Over 2965	Over 2975	Over 2985	Over 2995	Over 3005	Over 3015	Over 3025	Over 3035	Over 3045	Over 3055	Over 3065	Over 3075	Over 3085	Over 3095	Over 3105	Over 3115	Over 3125	Over 3135	Over 3145	Over 3155	Over 3165	Over 3175	Over 3185	Over 3195	Over 3205	Over 3215	Over 3225	Over 3235	Over 3245	Over 3255	Over 3265	Over 3275	Over 3285	Over 3295	Over 3305	Over 3315	Over 3325	Over 3335	Over 3345	Over 3355	Over 3365	Over 3375	Over 3385	Over 3395	Over 3405	Over 3415	Over 3425	Over 3435	Over 3445	Over 3455	Over 3465	Over 3475	Over 3485	Over 3495	Over 3505	Over 3515	Over 3525	Over 3535	Over 3545	Over 3555	Over 3565	Over 3575	Over 3585	Over 3595	Over 3605	Over 3615	Over 3625	Over 3635	Over 3645	Over 3655	Over 3665	Over 3675	Over 3685	Over 3695	Over 3705	Over 3715	Over 3725	Over 3735	Over 3745	Over 3755	Over 3765	Over 3775	Over 3785	Over 3795	Over 3805	Over 3815	Over 3825	Over 3835	Over 3845	Over 3855	Over 3865	Over 3875	Over 3885	Over 3895	Over 3905	Over 3915	Over 3925	Over 3935	Over 3945	Over 3955	Over 3965	Over 3975	Over 3985	Over 3995	Over 4005	Over 4015	Over 4025	Over 4035	Over 4045	Over 4055	Over 4065	Over 4075	Over 4085	Over 4095	Over 4105	Over 4115	Over 4125	Over 4135	Over 4145	Over 4155	Over 4165	Over 4175	Over 4185	Over 4195	Over 4205	Over 4215	Over 4225	Over 4235	Over 4245	Over 4255	Over 4265	Over 4275	Over 4285	Over 4295	Over 4305	Over 4315	Over 4325	Over 4335	Over 4345	Over 4355	Over 4365	Over 4375	Over 4385	Over 4395	Over 4405	Over 4415	Over 4425	Over 4435	Over 4445	Over 4455	Over 4465	Over 4475	Over 4485	Over 4495	Over 4505	Over 4515	Over 4525	Over 4535	Over 4545	Over 4555	Over 4565	Over 4575	Over 4585	Over 4595	Over 4605	Over 4615	Over 4625	Over 4635	Over 4645	Over 4655	Over 4665	Over 4675	Over 4685	Over 4695	Over 4705	Over 4715	Over 4725	Over 4735	Over 4745	Over 4755	Over 4765	Over 4775	Over 4785	Over 4795	Over 4805	Over 4815	Over 4825	Over 4835	Over 4845	Over 4855	Over 4865	Over 4875	Over 4885	Over 4895	Over 4905	Over 4915	Over 4925	Over 4935	Over 4945	Over 4955	Over 4965	Over 4975	Over 4985	Over 4995	Over 5005	Over 5015	Over 5025	Over 5035	Over 5045	Over 5055	Over 5065	Over 5075	Over 5085	Over 5095	Over 5105	Over 5115	Over 5125	Over 5135	Over 5145	Over 5155	Over 5165	Over 5175	Over 5185	Over 5195	Over 5205	Over 5215	Over 5225	Over 5235	Over 5245	Over 5255	Over 5265	Over 5275	Over 5285	Over 5295	Over 5305	Over 5315	Over 5325	Over 5335	Over 5345	Over 5355	Over 5365	Over 5375	Over 5385	Over 5395	Over 5405	Over 5415	Over 5425	Over 5435	Over 5445	Over 5455	Over 5465	Over 5475	Over 5485	Over 5495	Over 5505	Over 5515	Over 5525	Over 5535	Over 5545	Over 5555	Over 5565	Over 5575	Over 5585	Over 5595	Over 5605	Over 5615	Over 5625	Over 5635	Over 5645	Over 5655	Over 5665	Over 5675	Over 5685	Over 5695	Over 5705	Over 5715	Over 5725	Over 5735	Over 5745	Over 5755	Over 5765	Over 5775	Over 5785	Over 5795	Over 5805	Over 5815	Over 5825	Over 5835	Over 5845	Over 5855	Over 5865	Over 5875	Over 5885	Over 5895	Over 5905	Over 5915	Over 5925	Over 5935	Over 5945	Over 5955	Over 5965	Over 5975	Over 5985	Over 5995	Over 6005	Over 6015	Over 6025	Over 6035	Over 6045	Over 6055	Over 6065	Over 6075	Over 6085	Over 6095	Over 6105	Over 6115	Over 6125	Over 6135	Over 6145	Over 6155	Over 6165	Over 6175	Over 6185	Over 6195	Over 6205	Over 6215	Over 6225	Over 6235	Over 6245	Over 6255	Over 6265	Over 6275	Over 6285	Over 6295	Over 6305	Over 6315	Over 6325	Over 6335	Over 6345	Over 6355	Over 6365	Over 6375	Over 6385	Over 6395	Over 6405	Over 6415	Over 6425	Over 6435	Over 6445	Over 6455	Over 6465	Over 6475	Over 6485	Over 6495	Over 6505	Over 6515	Over 6525	Over 6535	Over 6545	Over 6555	Over 6565	Over 6575	Over 6585	Over 6595	Over 6605	Over 6615	Over 6625	Over 6635	Over 6645	Over 6655	Over 6665	Over 6675	Over 6685	Over 6695	Over 6705	Over 6715	Over 6725	Over 6735	Over 6745	Over 6755	Over 6765	Over 6775	Over 6785	Over 6795	Over 6805	Over 6815	Over 6825	Over 6835	Over 6845	Over 6855	Over 6865	Over 6875	Over 6885	Over 6895	Over 6905	Over 6915	Over 6925	Over 6935	Over 6945	Over 6955	Over 6965	Over 6975	Over 6985	Over 6995	Over 7005	Over 7015	Over 7025	Over 7035	Over 7045	Over 7055	Over 7065	Over 7075	Over 7085	Over 7095	Over 7105	Over 7115	Over 7125	Over 7135	Over 7145	Over 7155	Over 7165	Over 7175	Over 7185	Over 7195	Over 7205	Over 7215	Over 7225	Over 7235	Over 7245	Over 7255	Over 7265	Over 7275	Over 7285	Over 7295	Over 7305	Over 7315	Over 7325	Over 7335	Over 7345	Over 7355	Over 7365	Over 7375	Over 7385	Over 7395	Over 7405	Over 7415	Over 7425	Over 7435	Over 7445	Over 7455	Over 7465	Over 7475	Over 7485	Over 7495	Over 7505	Over 7515	Over 7525	Over 7535	Over 7545	Over 7555	Over 7565	Over 7575	Over 7585	Over 7595	Over 7605	Over 7615	Over 7625	Over 7635	Over 7645	Over 7655	Over 7665	Over 7675	Over 7685	Over 7695	Over 7705	Over 7715	Over 7725	Over 7735	Over 7745	Over 7755	Over 7765	Over 7775	Over 7785	Over 7795	Over 7805	Over 7815	Over 7825	Over 7835	Over 7845	Over 7855	Over 7865	Over 7875	Over 7885	Over 7895	Over 7905	Over 7915	Over 7925	Over 7935	Over 7945	Over 7955	Over 7965	Over 7975	Over 7985	Over 7995	Over 8005	Over 8015	Over 8025	Over 8035	Over 8045	Over 8055	Over 8065	Over 8075	Over 8085	Over 8095	Over 8105	Over 8115	Over 8125	Over 8135	Over 8145	Over 8155	Over 8165	Over 8175	Over 8185	Over 8195	Over 8205	Over 8215	Over 8225	Over 8235	Over 8245	Over 8255	Over 8265	Over 8275	Over 8285	Over 8295	Over 8305	Over 8315	Over 8325	Over 8335	Over 8345	Over 8355	Over 8365	Over 8375	Over 8385	Over 8395	Over 8405	Over 8415	Over 8425	Over 8435	Over 8445	Over 8455	Over 8465	Over 8475	Over 8485	Over 8495	Over 8505	Over 8515	Over 8525	Over 8535	Over 8545	Over 8555	Over 8565	Over 8575	Over 8585	Over 8595	Over 8605	Over 8615	Over 8625	Over 8635	Over 8645	Over 8655	Over 8665	Over 8675	Over 8685	Over 8695	Over 8705	Over 8715	Over 8725	Over 8735	Over 8745	Over 8755	Over 8765	Over 8775	Over 8785	Over 8795	Over 8805	Over 8815	Over 8825	Over 8835	Over 8845	Over 8855	Over 8865	Over 8875	Over 8885	Over 8895	Over 8905	Over 8915	Over 8925
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WESPOPT UNION.

[illegible]

TABLE II.—EXPENDITURE AND GRANTS.

BELMULLET UNION.

PARISHES AND TOWNS.	Valuation.		Population.	Expenditure.		Grants.		Excess of Expenditure over Grants.		Percentage of Excess on Valuation.
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	s. d.
Bangan,	421	0 0	508	83	2 2	68	0 0	15	2 2	0 8½
Barrackry,	320	0 0	450	101	5 2	88	0 0	13	5 2	0 10
Belmullet,	1,835	0 0	3,021	337	4 2	331	0 0	6	4 2	0 0½
Binghamstown, North,	1,560	0 0	1,823	237	18 0	171	0 0	66	18 0	0 10
Binghamstown, South,	1,728	0 0	1,984	320	18 9	252	0 0	68	18 9	0 8
Glensmoy,	296	0 0	396	111	12 10	106	0 0	5	12 10	0 4½
Glencusilla,	641	0 0	1,196	184	11 9	149	0 0	37	11 9	1 2
Glenn,	468	0 0	331	47	4 6	29	0 0	18	4 6	0 9½
Goolanore,	531	0 0	586	122	8 5	90	0 0	32	8 5	1 0
Knockaduff,	418	0 0	651	182	0 0	163	0 0	19	0 0	0 11
Knocknaveer,	872	0 0	1,717	435	16 0	368	0 0	67	16 0	1 1½
Mahon,	404	0 0	765	130	18 4	180	18 4	—	—	—
Mahon,	320	0 0	735	154	3 5	136	0 0	18	3 5	1 1½
Rushill,	797	0 0	2,036	356	4 2	304	1 8	52	2 6	1 3½
Shakin,	226	0 0	218	26	1 4	11	0 0	15	1 4	1 4
Total,	10,994	0 0	16,461	2,881	9 7	2,481	0 0	400	9 7	Average, Gr. 8½d.

CLIFDEN UNION.

Ballyniskill,	1,258	0 0	890	221	17 3	53	0 0	168	17 3	2 8½
Bennet,	766	0 0	371	93	12 11	35	0 0	58	12 11	1 6½
Brennan,	1,213	0 0	1,683	438	1 0	207	0 0	231	1 0	4 1½
Cloggan,	752	0 0	666	240	15 2	121	0 0	119	15 2	3 2½
Clifden,	2,454	0 0	3,641	616	1 7	335	0 0	281	1 7	3 1½
Cushiberry,	681	0 0	509	142	17 6	35	0 0	107	17 6	3 2
Deerynagh,	673	0 0	238	58	4 0	20	0 0	38	4 0	1 1½
Deerynagh,	397	0 0	337	101	15 1	31	0 0	70	15 1	3 6½
Doonahighan,	652	0 0	730	197	3 7	97	0 0	100	3 7	3 1
Erishannon,	681	0 0	1,063	262	7 0	200	0 0	162	7 0	4 2½
Hill,	116	0 0	317	123	17 2	99	0 0	24	17 2	4 3½
Inishleena,	582	0 0	1,266	447	17 8	325	0 0	122	17 8	4 2½
Knocklagh,	1,193	0 0	2,544	684	8 6	619	0 0	265	8 6	4 5½
Moyra,	1,008	0 0	1,944	333	6 5	132	0 0	221	6 5	4 4½
Owenagha,	379	0 0	977	344	19 2	265	0 0	79	19 2	4 2½
Rinny,	1,994	0 0	2,666	733	3 7	360	0 0	383	3 7	3 10
Roundstone,	1,119	0 0	1,579	484	1 5	332	0 0	152	1 5	2 8½
Sherna,	917	0 0	2,164	738	17 5	609	0 0	129	17 5	4 1½
Skannig,	697	0 0	1,749	672	18 9	637	0 0	35	18 9	4 1
Total,	17,381	0 0	24,269	7,496	5 2	6,422	0 0	1,074	5 2	Average, 3 5½

GALWAY UNION.

Electoral Division.	Valuation.	Population.	Expenditure.	Grosses.	Excess of Expenditure over Grosses.	Percentage of Excess on Valuation.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Annaghdown, . . .	1,618 0 0	1,585	31 4 8	9 0 0	22 4 8	0 3½
Aughrin, . . .	1,809 0 0	627	23 1 0	—	23 1 0	0 3
Ballynacorney, . . .	2,753 0 0	816	30 11 2	—	30 11 2	0 3½
Ballintemple, . . .	1,998 0 0	808	18 2 10	—	18 2 10	0 2½
Barna, . . .	2,302 0 0	1,645	106 10 0	39 0 0	85 10 0	0 9
Belleville, . . .	1,476 0 0	534	1 12 0	—	1 12 0	0 0½
Carragee, . . .	1,411 0 0	832	—	—	—	—
Carrowbrown, . . .	989 0 0	785	—	—	—	—
Cisco-Galway, . . .	1,728 0 0	1,236	1 1 0	—	1 1 0	0 0½
Clarinsbridge, . . .	3,694 0 0	1,049	0 6 0	—	0 6 0	—
Deerpark, . . .	1,277 0 0	892	0 4 0	—	0 4 0	—
Furbogh, . . .	890 0 0	750	53 5 4	24 0 0	28 5 4	0 8
Galway, . . .	28,737 0 0	16,607	5 15 6	—	5 15 6	—
Inishmore, . . .	1,667 0 0	3,163	576 12 2	370 0 0	206 12 2	2 7½
Kilcummin, . . .	912 0 0	1,979	197 5 4	110 0 0	87 5 4	1 11
Killassan, . . .	647 0 0	950	189 0 6	85 0 0	54 0 6	1 7½
Lackaghbeg, . . .	1,630 0 0	637	—	—	—	—
Liscannore, . . .	1,641 0 0	1,288	23 11 0	—	23 11 0	0 3½
Lisheavilla, . . .	703 0 0	456	—	—	—	—
Moyraile, . . .	940 0 0	775	19 12 0	—	19 12 0	0 5
Oranmore, . . .	2,108 0 0	972	59 16 0	15 0 0	44 16 0	0 5
Salerna, . . .	666 0 0	1,213	168 10 10	85 0 0	83 10 10	2 6
Shivemore, . . .	978 0 0	1,116	35 19 6	23 0 0	27 19 6	0 6½
Spiddie, . . .	834 0 0	1,410	80 19 2	58 0 0	51 19 2	1 3½
Stradbally, . . .	1,437 0 0	294	16 15 0	—	16 15 0	0 2½
Tallaght, . . .	1,332 0 0	810	47 16 0	18 0 0	29 16 0	0 5½
Total, . . .	65,952 0 0	43,161	1,613 9 0	802 0 0	811 9 0	Average, 0s. 3½d.

OUGHTERD UNION.

PARISHES IN UNION.	Valuation.	Population.	Expenditure.	Grants.	Ex. of Expenditure over Grants.	Proportion of Rate to be Valued.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Carrig	262 0 0	518	175 10 4	150 0 0	25 10 4	2 14
Cloombur	3,095 0 0	2,581	1174 4 4	938 0 0	236 4 4	6 04
Cung	1,246 0 0	1,912	840 2 10	458 0 0	382 2 10	6 14
Crausman	940 0 0	2,475	521 18 4	435 0 0	86 18 4	2 84
Cur	481 0 0	510	180 16 4	40 0 0	139 16 4	5 9
Garraun	891 0 0	2,750	838 8 5	710 0 0	128 8 5	2 94
Kilbarnish	164 0 0	335	177 15 6	128 0 0	49 15 6	6 04
Letterbrickham	725 0 0	732	193 11 10	45 0 0	148 11 10	4 14
Letterfoss	702 0 0	548	257 11 4	123 0 0	134 11 4	5 10
Lettermore	452 0 0	1,643	532 0 1	800 0 0	32 0 1	1 5
Oughterd	2,404 0 0	2,537	714 4 1	410 0 0	304 4 1	2 64
Ross	437 0 0	334	150 2 8	40 0 0	110 2 8	4 14
Turlough	980 0 0	1,782	648 6 1	617 0 0	31 6 1	0 64
Wernahale	2,281 0 0	2,041	826 8 0	278 0 0	548 8 0	4 104
Total	15,013 0 0	20,708	7,081 15 2	4,017 0 0	3,064 15 2	Average, 4s. 1d.

SWINFORD UNION.

PARISHES IN UNION.	Valuation.	Population.	Expenditure.	Grants.	Ex. of Expenditure over Grants.	Proportion of Rate to be Valued.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Aghamore	1,459 0 0	1,950	225 19 7	125 0 0	100 19 7	1 24
Ballinamore	2,106 0 0	1,178	99 5 5	51 0 0	48 5 5	0 94
Bahala	1,582 0 0	1,036	165 4 0	20 0 0	145 4 0	1 84
Blackloun	1,458 0 0	3,314	508 9 10	254 0 0	254 9 10	5 04
Calloo	1,905 0 0	2,169	483 9 11	243 0 0	239 9 11	2 6
Cloombur	1,205 0 0	2,595	593 16 6	504 0 0	89 16 6	1 84
Coolinaba	1,000 0 0	1,507	208 7 2	128 0 0	80 7 2	1 5
Cullinoo	1,688 0 0	1,810	276 2 8	131 0 0	145 2 8	1 84
Doonahale	1,572 0 0	2,540	431 19 11	180 0 0	251 19 11	5 94
Kilbough	2,207 0 0	3,411	551 18 11	599 0 0	152 18 11	1 54
Kilkelly	2,045 0 0	3,643	339 5 9	129 0 0	210 5 9	2 04
Killedan	1,795 0 0	2,629	379 0 8	118 0 0	261 0 8	2 11
Kilmoree	1,370 0 0	3,015	263 7 10	126 0 0	137 7 10	1 84
Kilnamogh	1,610 0 0	2,704	479 18 4	159 0 0	320 18 4	4 0
Maclick	2,605 0 0	2,472	450 12 7	114 0 0	336 12 7	2 54
Sannagh	1,970 0 0	3,357	414 2 3	193 0 0	221 2 3	2 5
Swinford	4,038 0 0	5,831	615 15 10	354 0 0	261 15 10	2 04
Teemamagh	1,568 0 0	1,765	219 7 8	70 0 0	149 7 8	1 114
Toomcora	3,328 0 0	3,077	437 5 9	213 0 0	224 5 9	1 4
Tungob	1,708 0 0	1,746	363 12 2	189 0 0	174 12 2	2 94
Ullam	1,254 0 0	2,625	189 0 1	103 0 0	86 0 1	1 14
Total	40,971 0 0	55,714	7,630 2 10	3,521 0 0	4,109 2 10	Average, 2 04

WESTPORT UNION

Parochial Division	Valuation	Population	Ratepayers	Grants	Excess of Ratepayers over Grants	Percentage of Grants on Valuation
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	p. c.
Ashill,	463 0 0	1,024	610 19 4	303 0 0	108 19 4	6 11
Aghagower, North,	2,000 0 0	947	238 12 4	47 0 0	211 12 4	2 1½
Aghagower, South,	613 0 0	494	169 9 2	77 0 0	93 9 2	3 0
Allimore,	964 0 0	1,404	355 6 0	135 0 0	220 6 0	4 6½
Ballycroy, North,	1,983 0 0	1,073	266 12 6	131 0 0	123 12 6	2 5½
Ballycroy, South,	851 0 0	918	163 2 1	100 0 0	59 2 1	1 4½
Benabergla,	303 0 0	113	23 5 0	6 0 0	17 5 0	1 1½
Clare Island,	463 0 0	737	140 17 9	105 0 0	35 17 9	1 1
Clogher,	1,845 0 0	1,497	830 1 7	41 0 0	560 1 7	3 6½
Coernan, Ashill,	359 0 0	1,737	828 12 6	647 0 0	180 12 6	6 7½
Crough Patrick,	1,344 0 0	1,019	235 14 0	69 0 0	147 14 0	3 4½
Deerystouglan,	2,870 0 0	1,101	189 5 0	53 0 0	126 5 0	0 10½
Doega,	721 0 0	1,759	666 5 0	586 0 0	130 5 0	3 7½
Drumman,	500 0 0	531	155 12 3	87 0 0	68 12 3	2 9
Ennagh,	809 0 0	1,105	193 0 7	62 0 0	131 0 7	3 3½
Eriff,	506 0 0	197	20 12 0	—	90 12 0	0 9½
Glenlost,	644 0 0	1,087	226 13 6	130 0 0	95 13 6	2 3½
Islandeady,	2,320 0 0	2,297	473 10 8	132 0 0	341 10 8	2 11½
Kilgoosey,	324 0 0	489	143 12 6	70 0 0	73 12 6	4 6½
Kilmaheer,	1,548 0 0	763	218 9 6	72 0 0	146 9 6	1 10½
Kilmaena,	4,390 0 0	2,382	590 11 6	100 0 0	487 11 6	3 2½
Kilnallagh,	951 0 0	1,191	208 1 0	113 0 0	135 1 0	4 3½
Knapagh,	1,251 0 0	1,289	456 2 5	124 0 0	332 2 5	5 3½
Loughborough,	1,533 0 0	1,868	213 14 1	50 0 0	158 14 1	2 0½
Newport, East,	2,031 0 0	2,124	398 14 0	160 0 0	106 14 0	1 3½
Newport, West,	1,002 0 0	2,082	471 10 6	250 0 0	221 10 6	2 9½
Owenadocman,	456 0 0	93	12 1 6	—	12 1 6	0 6½
Slieve Mahanagh,	877 0 0	870	206 1 0	144 0 0	193 1 0	4 4½
Slieve More,	894 0 0	1,947	657 11 10	597 0 0	100 11 10	2 3
Srinacoe,	694 0 0	621	128 7 0	71 0 0	57 7 0	1 7½
Westport,	8,020 0 0	3,594	551 14 1	142 0 0	409 14 1	1 0½
Total,	44,290 0 0	60,974	9,896 4 0	4,757 0 0	5,139 4 0	Average, 2s 3½d

SUMMARY OF THE FOREGOING RETURNS.

UNION.	Valuation.	Population.	Expenditure.	Gross.	Excess of Expenditure over Gross.	Percentage of Excess on Valuation.
	£		£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	s. d.
BELMULLET, . . .	10,894	16,451	2,881 9 7	2,681	400 9 7	0 8½
CLIFDEN, . . .	17,881	24,259	7,495 5 2	4,432	3,074 5 2	3 5½
GALWAY, . . .	65,962	43,101	1,662 9 0	899	861 9 0	0 5½
OUGHTERARD, . . .	15,013	20,796	7,081 15 2	4,017	3,064 15 2	4 1
SWINFORD, . . .	40,971	53,714	7,680 2 10	3,621	4,159 2 10	2 0½
WESTPORT, . . .	44,220	40,974	9,896 4 0	4,757	5,139 4 0	2 3½
Total, . . .	195,901	199,204	36,699 5 9	20,009	16,699 5 9	—

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE.

UNION	Expended in		Total	Out per acre of Arable and Pasture Land.
	Relief	Schools, Trade, &c.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
BELMULLET, . . .	2,374 4 6	107 5 1	2,881 9 7	3 14 6
CLIFDEN, . . .	7,254 1 6	242 3 8	7,496 5 2	3 4 7
GALWAY, . . .	1,612 0 2	51 8 10	1,663 9 0	3 1 10
OUGHTERARD, . . .	6,854 15 2	217 0 0	7,081 15 2	3 1 3½
SWINFORD, . . .	7,452 10 2	227 12 8	7,680 2 10	2 10 3
WESTPORT, . . .	9,176 4 0	720 0 0	9,896 4 0	7 5 6
Total, . . .	25,183 15 8	1,565 10 3	36,699 5 9	4 5 4

TABLE V.—EXPENDITURE AND RATES.

HELMULLET UNION.

EXPENDITURE DISTRICTS.	Ordinary Expenditure Helmslow, 1914-1915.		Helmslow Gas under Road Supply Act.	Totum of Expenditure under Grant, Poor Relief Act, 1914.	Permitted ordinary Expenditure for poor relief 1914-1915.	Total amount to be provided for.	Amount which Rates Assessed to by Committee will provide.	Balance not provided for by Rates.	Rates.			
	£	s							Excess to meet total amount required.	Assessed to.	Necessary to provide for balance.	
Barnes,	—	34	34	13	27	248	24	58	7 2	4 8	2 7	
Barnesbury,	—	20	20	13	23	127	21	11	2 13	2 6	4 3	
Barnstaple,	—	421	275	2	561	1,854	484	308	13 7½	5 8	8 7½	
Bathampton, North,	—	79	303	27	205	619	266	453	8 4	2 8	5 5	
Bathampton, South,	—	94	310	28	344	738	264	474	5 4	2 4	3 10	
Gloucester,	—	20	20	4	24	120	24	10	4 13	2 8	2 10	
Gloucester,	—	34	27	20	144	504	155	349	7 1	4 8	2 8	
Gloucester,	—	20	20	10	30	154	29	24	2 5	2 6	2 9	
Gloucester,	—	27	20	26	53	147	28	21	6 1½	2 2	4 2½	
Knockhill,	—	20	20	20	40	280	94	112	2 10	4 6	5 4	
Knockhill,	—	40	72	41	213	243	213	180	7 10	2 4	4 4	
Knockhill,	—	20	76	—	96	180	71	180	6 11	2 6	2 8	
Knockhill,	—	27	20	20	47	146	24	30	2 1½	2 6	2 7½	
Knockhill,	—	20	110	22	212	212	110	208	2 8	4 0	6 8	
Knockhill,	—	5	3	10	24	20	10	20	2 2	2 10	2 4	
Total,	—	614	1,681	208	2,507	6,705	2,000	2,722	5 10	2 10	4 0	

CLIFDEN UNION.

Ballykilly,	10	—	42	105	210	264	210	189	1 7½	4 8	1 7½	
Barnes,	2	—	47	20	206	287	210	27	5 4	5 9	1 4	
Barnesbury,	10	—	319	521	505	884	878	428	21 7	6 8	7 7	
Clagga,	—	80	58	120	216	569	314	185	2 3½	4 8	2 2½	
Cliffon,	—	12	210	481	694	1,271	892	260	29 5	6 8	2 8	
Cushiberry,	25	—	28	144	28	122	228	27	5 9	6 8	1 4	
Derryville,	20	—	26	24	77	155	40	28	2 4	6 8	2 8	
Derryville,	20	—	42	71	61	156	60	20	7 10	4 0	2 10	
Donnabeg,	27	—	228	180	220	270	270	140	5 1½	4 0	5 4½	
Errisbane,	21	—	202	140	345	427	210	281	22 10	6 8	4 10	
Illoo,	4	—	56	26	26	80	20	20	27 1	6 8	22 1	
Knockhill,	—	27	270	222	74	480	210	204	20 9	6 8	9 9	
Knockhill,	—	20	300	240	240	671	210	426	31 2	6 8	7 2	
Knockhill,	—	20	210	221	240	481	270	426	2 11½	6 8	0 24	
Knockhill,	20	—	204	20	20	204	74	210	20 6	6 8	2 4	
Knockhill,	21	—	240	240	270	732	270	260	7 10	6 8	5 10	
Knockhill,	—	120	270	120	267	547	210	487	21 4½	6 8	7 4½	
Knockhill,	20	—	210	120	270	600	240	420	20 10	6 8	24 10	
Knockhill,	—	13	210	120	260	420	210	270	20 6	6 8	2 4	
Total,	105	280	2,472	2,274	2,620	6,987	2,411	2,614	2 11½	6 8	2 21½	

GALWAY UNION.

ELECTIONAL DISTRICTS.	Ordinary Representation Polls, 1914 September, 1914		Balance due under Food Supply Act.	Status of Repayment over Grant, Post-Rate Act, 1913.	Estimated ordinary representation for year ending 31st. Sept., 1917.	Total amount to be provided for.	Amount which Ratepayers agreed to contribute with produce.	Balance not provided for by Rate.	Note		
	For	Against							Provision to meet total amount required.	Applied to	Provision to provide for balance.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Asaphodown, . . .	—	2	40	22	703	337	955	56	2 11	3 3	0 8
Avonlea, . . .	12	—	18	53	219	382	264	47	2 9	1 0	0 6
Belkenny, . . .	25	—	8	31	283	293	230	67	1 11	4 3	0 4
Belinacree, . . .	21	—	26	18	165	300	186	42	2 3	1 8	8 3
Berna, . . .	3	—	22	55	270	345	303	37	3 5	3 1	3 4
Beltville, . . .	12	—	8	1	129	122	93	56	1 8	1 6	9 8
Carman, . . .	18	—	15	—	358	133	94	41	1 11	1 8	0 7
Carvaghmore, . . .	30	—	11	—	313	169	76	29	9 1	1 0	0 7
Clarecastle, . . .	54	—	43	1	384	226	310	67	2 9	1 10	0 9
Clarecastle, . . .	12	—	50	—	379	220	245	25	1 10	1 0	0 0
Donagh, . . .	8	—	0	—	140	140	137	21	9 59	1 10	0 46
Farboy, . . .	23	—	9	29	121	239	153	3	4 0	7 11	0 3
Galway, . . .	1,418	—	65	6	4,726	3,219	3,699	508	3 3	5 0	8 3
Inchmore, . . .	30	—	—	387	558	284	500	16	7 1	6 7	8 8
Kilconnell, . . .	61	—	5	57	378	145	120	55	8 3	2 2	0 6
Kilconnell, . . .	13	—	2	34	68	180	63	35	3 11	3 7	1 2
Loughbeg, . . .	15	—	7	—	260	121	319	50	1 13	1 5	0 0
Lisnacroghna, . . .	93	—	38	29	300	397	287	40	2 0	1 11	0 7
Lisnacroghna, . . .	26	—	4	—	78	50	38	10	1 0	1 1	0 4
Mayodon, . . .	12	—	1	38	399	131	259	2	3 10	2 9	0 09
Oranmore, . . .	40	—	27	68	253	393	245	11	9 19	2 4	0 0
Salmon, . . .	28	—	6	63	166	187	362	0	—	0 0	—
Shanahan, . . .	—	59	4	36	121	123	319	9	3 11	3 0	0 3
Spiddal, . . .	15	—	18	52	135	177	167	20	4 1	4 3	8 8
Strathilly, . . .	20	—	8	37	121	204	188	38	1 11	1 0	9 5
Tullaghan, . . .	0	—	1	25	163	167	160	20	2 10	2 8	0 6
Total, . . .	3,607	59	532	643	9,219	8,399	7,196	1,273	3 8	3 2	0 6

DOUGHERTY UNION.

Oranmore,	—	2	36	29	128	174	59	166	26 49	0 9	2 2
Clontarf,	203	—	280	332	369	1,216	631	585	3 0	4 0	4 0
Coop,	39	—	121	339	136	508	360	228	8 12	4 2	5 11
Cranshaw,	—	27	49	127	319	699	325	377	10 41	3 9	5 10
Cur,	63	—	39	150	49	168	91	45	3 19	4 0	3 10
Darvagh,	—	30	22	123	265	474	247	227	10 15	8 8	0 11
Kilconnell,	—	1	32	68	37	191	49	79	14 0	8 8	8 8
Latterbrook,	21	—	24	140	96	239	118	100	8 9	8 8	2 8
Letterken,	—	3	40	135	216	293	348	222	5 4	4 0	4 6
Letterman,	9	—	47	35	211	173	106	89	9 10	4 0	3 1
Oxgharred,	67	—	140	304	637	914	690	224	6 3	4 0	3 9
Ross,	18	—	37	98	70	272	61	61	7 16	4 8	3 10
Tullagh,	—	218	65	29	493	608	293	317	12 8	5 8	3 14
Wernohol,	8	—	219	335	310	1,710	416	617	9 7	6 9	5 7
Total,	679	126	1,674	1,664	5,219	8,378	5,204	3,674	6 11	2 2	4 6

SWINEFORD UNION.

ECONOMICAL DIVISIONS.	Ordinary Expenditure, 1944-1945, 1946		Expenditure on Public Supply Act	Excess of Expenditure over Grant, Poor Relief Act, 1946.	Estimated ordinary Expenditure for year ending 1946-1947	Total Amount to be provided for	Amount of Public Supply Act, 1946, provided for by Government	Balance not provided for by Rates.	Rate			
	For.	Against							Excess to meet total resources required.	Agreed to.	Reserve to provide for balance.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ d.	£ d.	£ d.	£ d.
Aghmore.	-	10	91	101	240	371	221	150	7 5	3 8	4 5	
Ballymore.	10	-	17	61	130	260	254	6	2 6	1 0	8 10	
Bahals.	-	17	12	120	245	400	373	26	8 8	9 8	8 2	
Freestone.	-	110	74	212	285	1,300	954	346	14 10	3 1	16 6	
Galles.	-	161	612	940	200	1,604	200	1,404	11 6	3 0	8 4	
Glennmore.	-	101	604	95	200	1,950	334	1,616	20 6	5 2	17 1	
Goodale.	-	99	141	74	122	346	141	205	7 1	2 8	4 10	
Coillan.	-	122	61	140	215	1,000	210	790	10 4	2 10	8 8	
Doonagh.	-	121	614	202	310	3,145	410	2,735	16 7	5 6	10 12	
Elfragh.	-	100	931	249	481	1,916	304	1,612	15 1	5 0	11 10	
Edally.	16	-	149	210	200	600	300	300	5 10	2 4	6 10	
Edinagh.	-	47	105	173	200	348	247	101	3 4	2 9	6 2	
Kilmore.	81	-	410	137	205	600	242	358	8 8	2 7	6 1	
Edinagh.	-	80	320	321	220	117	510	394	10 4	2 8	7 4	
Meek.	-	22	904	337	330	330	325	5	1 0	8 6	6 6	
Roanagh.	-	148	1,000	101	173	1,730	310	1,420	16 7	3 6	10 1	
Removal.	-	203	1,071	602	140	5,807	490	5,317	11 9	2 1	8 8	
Tomnagh.	-	10	100	149	101	420	170	250	3 3	0 4	2 4	
Tomnagh.	-	100	100	200	420	1,410	400	1,010	11 9	2 8	8 11	
Tomnagh.	-	100	200	240	285	1,110	321	789	9 7	2 8	6 20	
Urry.	-	74	101	72	102	610	107	503	10 8	2 8	6 0	
Total.	85	8,261	10,061	6,210	2,201	31,201	6,805	24,396	10 9	2 8	8 0	

WESTPORT UNION.

Arish.	-	112	51	100	50	800	67	733	14 1	4 8	10 7	
Aghagower, North.	10	-	2	212	140	217	150	67	8 6	1 4	1 12	
Aghagower, South.	16	-	1	99	36	312	20	292	8 8	1 8	2 0	
Albion.	12	-	-	220	104	413	121	292	0 12	3 4	0 12	
Ballymore, North.	-	40	7	110	100	318	165	153	6 9	3 8	5 8	
Ballymore, South.	14	-	5	10	100	110	65	45	2 0	1 6	1 9	
Tomnagh.	10	-	-	17	90	30	20	0	1 12	1 1	0 8	
Clare Island.	-	60	20	20	70	200	213	87	8 9	2 4	8 8	
Clash.	80	-	13	800	100	100	100	0	0 5	2 0	4 8	
Glenn Ashel.	-	60	64	101	72	207	140	67	10 10	5 0	6 10	
Crangpatrick.	-	10	27	140	100	310	140	170	2 4	2 4	2 11	
Downy, Louisa.	2	-	7	110	200	400	370	30	8 12	1 11	1 0	
Downy.	-	100	40	110	24	347	140	207	10 12	4 0	6 10	
Downy.	1	-	9	10	32	100	20	80	4 12	1 8	2 7	
Edinagh.	-	7	2	100	50	300	101	199	4 10	1 10	9 10	
Edinagh.	10	-	-	20	40	60	55	5	1 10	1 10	8 10	
Glennagh.	-	8	10	20	77	101	60	41	4 10	1 10	2 10	
Glennagh.	10	-	10	101	270	401	274	127	2 10	1 10	8 10	
Glennagh.	10	-	8	10	20	30	20	10	4 10	1 10	8 10	

[continued.]

WESTPORT UNION—continued.

Municipal Divisions.	Ordinary Expenditure Balance, 30th September, 1907.		Balance due under Road Supply Act.	Excess of Expenditure over Grant, 1907.	Estimated ordinary Expenditure for year ending 30th Sept. 1908.	Total Amount to be provided for.	Amount which Excess agreed to by Guardians will produce.	Balance not provided for by Rate.	Rate.									
									Necessary to meet total amount required.	Agreed to.	Necessary to provide for balance.							
	For.	Against.																
Standon, —	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.						
Standon, —	54	—	8	146	109	265	187	68	2 7½	1 5	3 10½	—						
Standon, —	—	—	22	450	344	495	354	141	3 8	1 8	1 31	—						
Standon, —	20	—	2	110	60	170	78	92	4 1	1 0	3 7	—						
Standon, —	64	—	10	810	37	975	94	217	5 13½	2 4	4 11	—						
Standon, —	—	17	8	287	124	391	103	288	3 8½	0 9	1 19	—						
Standon, East, —	44	—	67	167	978	669	110	559	3 6½	1 8	1 30½	—						
Standon, West, —	—	150	8	391	140	531	90	441	3 7	0 6	4 1	—						
Overend, —	11	—	—	22	31	53	38	7	1 5	1 4	0 1	—						
Stave, —	2	—	11	100	80	257	40	181	5 10½	1 0	4 4½	—						
Stave, —	—	174	18	100	351	484	279	205	6 11	4 0	0 11	—						
Stave, —	—	8	4	50	80	130	40	70	3 8½	3 5	0 6½	—						
Westport, —	284	—	2	418	768	975	609	366	5 11	2 8	0 8½	—						
Total, —	900	400	611	5,238	4,245	5,975	4,002	1,973	4 6	2 0	2 4	—						

SUMMARY of EXPENDITURE and RATES.

Union	Ordinary Expenditure Balance, 30th September, 1907		Balance due under Road Supply Act	Excess of Expenditure over Grant, 1907 (Road Act, 1906)	Estimated Ordinary Expenditure for Year ending 30th Sept. 1908	Total Amount to be provided for	Amount which Excess agreed to by Guardians will produce	Balance not provided for by Excess	Rate			
	For	Against							Necessary to meet total amount required	Agreed to	Necessary to provide for Balance	
											£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Reinhold, ..	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Chilms, ..	—	514	1,427	400	2,507	6,750	5,270	1,480	3 18	3 18	0 0	—
Galsay, ..	395	260	2,073	3,076	3,096	4,267	3,221	1,046	5 13½	4 0	1 13½	—
Galsay, ..	2,607	39	273	961	5,126	6,230	7,138	1,112	2 8	0 0	0 8	—
Highwood, ..	400	174	1,600	3,324	3,520	6,873	5,784	1,089	3 31	4 0	4 8	—
Standon, ..	58	2,361	10,645	4,150	6,440	21,366	2,090	19,276	30 0	2 0	0 0	—
Westport, ..	800	580	410	5,120	4,348	9,621	4,468	5,153	4 6	2 0	2 4	—
Total, ..	2,602	4,140	16,519	16,977	27,618	76,225	26,108	50,117	—	—	—	—

*The amounts in this column denote the total liability of the Union under the Road Supply Act, whether balance of rate will due to the Commissioners of Public Works or sums to be refunded by Four Towns in respect of money appropriated to pay previous instalments of the Road Loan. The actual state of the Road Collection is not, however, indicated by the figures in the above column.

TABLE VI.—POOR RATE collected and outstanding.

Union	Collector	Amount to be collected	Date of Warrant	Amount of Rate collected to 14th September, 1915	Amount of Rate not standing 27th September 1915	Amount of Rate not standing 21 Date of Inquiry	Per centage of last Column due by	
							Im- payable Loans	Rated Occupiers
Inverness	William Macdonald, Peter P. O'Malley.	£ s d		£ s d	£ s d	£ s d		
		1,426 0 1	20 Mar., 1915.	618 5 4	794 12 7	618 17 7	57	43
		1,375 12 11	" "	242 7 12	842 0 0	539 12 9	75	25
		2,801 9 9	—	1,460 12 3	1,207 2 0	678 19 7	85	15
Cobles	Martin Coyne.	800 8 10	24 Dec., 1915.	617 12 9	222 21 1	349 9 4	92	8
	Michael Lydon.	1,197 2 5	" "	1,242 12 7	325 22 2	318 9 8	64	36
	Maria Lydon.	800 2 4	" "	541 9 2	289 12 2	312 5 3	81	9
	James Mangin.	650 7 8	" "	254 8 1	154 1 7	29 8 0	24	74
	Michael Lydon.	810 1 6	" "	97 12 2	269 16 10	516 16 16	2	98
		3,057 9 11	—	2,662 12 2	1,294 30 10	578 14 11	24	45
Galway	Walter Lambert.	4 510 12 4	2 Feb., 1915.	3,550 2 11	615 1 7	94 13 4	12	88
	Michael Ryan.	564 1 5	20 Dec., 1915.	512 9 8	52 12 5	195 10 0	24	176
	Ed. W. Young.	1,201 12 1	" "	124 2 10	66 12 9	61 5 1	18	82
	Richard Fisher.	75 12 2	" "	75 10 2	1 8 0	1 5 0	—	100
	Green Ryan.	314 8 7	" "	115 10 0	1 7 7	—	—	—
	James Ryan.	619 4 4	" "	505 8 10	9 13 4	—	—	—
	P. Connerman.	120 4 4	" "	140 4 1	76 14 3	—	—	—
	Thomas Kelly.	120 0 5	" "	140 12 10	12 4 7	5 9 5	10	97
		8,841 21 6	—	6,960 5 2	584 8 0	555 2 11	8	72
Oughterford	P. O'Malley.	800 12 9	12 Dec., 1915.	575 12 18	85 27 11	—	—	100
	M. Goughan.	1,239 17 10	" "	1,674 7 2	120 10 8	10 18 8	84	47
	P. Tully.	875 12 8	" "	210 7 4	280 15 0	275 16 12	61	39
		5,214 5 5	—	7,066 1 5	599 4 0	672 12 7	60	40
Inverness	Thomas Campbell.	1,400 0 2	20 April, 1915.	211 8 2	889 12 0	379 0 18	29	71
	John Macra.	1,082 4 8	" "	479 12 1	645 7 7	144 12 8	31	69
	James Costello.	1,201 7 1	" "	625 9 18	619 26 5	174 12 4	17	83
	Thomas A. Kane.	1,271 16 7	" "	422 12 8	749 28 20	516 12 13	25	75
		618 12 12	22 June, 1915.	94 12 0	602 17 2	—	—	—
	T. C. Holligan.	674 9 8	" "	127 8 2	747 4 5	351 9 10	34	66
		6,215 12 8	—	3,795 8 8	5,219 8 0	1,921 22 2	31	69
Wexford	Peter Doyle.	627 7 2	12 May, 1915.	242 14 7	28 12 7	—	—	—
	William G. O'Malley.	127 12 8	" "	242 8 0	25 12 11	—	—	—
	Michael Ryan.	128 12 12	21 Dec., 1915.	91 10 2	24 9 5	61 2 4	29	80
	Adm. G. Larnach.	594 8 4	19 Nov., 1915.	400 0 0	48 12 9	—	—	—
	Francis McNeilland.	440 8 8	" "	407 12 2	51 5 7	—	—	—
	W. G. O'Malley.	1,049 12 2	25 Jan., 1915.	430 12 0	419 0 0	265 10 0	59	41
Newport Market	James Conway.	542 1 8	" "	240 0 0	412 12 9	61 14 2	9	91
	H. J. Walsh.	6,215 7 5	—	3,580 12 0	1,217 8 2	594 7 8	22	78

TABLE VII.—POUNDAGE RATES struck in the Six Sanctioned Unions, and in the Ballina and Killaun Unions, for Ten Years, from the year beginning the 29th of September, 1876, inclusive.

BELMULLET UNION.

ELECTIONAL DIVISION.	Valuation in 1876.	Population in 1881.	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	Average
	£		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inniscree	421	564	2 2	3 2	3 2	3 6	6 6	8 10	3 2	3 6	4 6	3 6	3 1
Barrookly,	519	480	3 9	5 4	5 9	5 2	3 2	3 6	6 6	3 6	3 6	6 0	5 2
Belmullet,	1,734	3,081	4 7	5 6	6 0	3 0	3 6	5 9	6 6	3 4	3 12	4 6	4 7
Longmestown, North, . .	1,540	1,929	3 0	3 4	3 10	3 6	3 6	4 6	3 12	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 4
Longmestown, South, . .	1,703	1,794	3 4	4 0	4 1	5 11	3 6	3 7	4 6	4 6	3 7	3 0	3 7
Glencary,	905	810	2 0	3 6	2 4	2 2	3 2	4 0	3 6	6 0	2 6	4 6	2 7
Glencar,	841	1,196	4 2	4 2	3 10	3 6	4 6	4 4	3 2	3 2	3 7	4 0	3 6
Glenties,	625	320	3 6	3 4	3 10	3 0	2 6	2 6	3 6	4 6	4 7	9 10	5 9
Glenties,	593	808	2 4	3 6	3 0	2 4	2 2	2 11	2 6	2 6	2 6	3 6	2 9
Knocknashill,	418	612	2 2	4 6	2 4	3 2	3 4	3 10	2 4	2 6	3 1	4 2	3 6
Knocknashill,	672	1,717	3 6	3 6	4 4	4 0	3 6	4 6	3 6	2 2	3 9	4 6	3 10
Malinbeg,	484	543	3 0	4 4	3 2	3 6	2 2	2 2	3 2	6 6	3 1	4 6	4 2
Malinbeg,	620	716	2 4	3 2	3 0	3 4	3 6	3 10	3 6	4 6	4 6	4 0	3 6
Enniskillen,	710	9,218	4 6	3 6	4 2	3 6	3 6	3 7	3 6	3 6	3 12	4 0	3 9
Sharnagh,	216	304	3 8	4 6	3 4	2 2	3 6	3 7	3 6	3 6	3 4	3 7	3 11
Total,	10,026	15,081											

CLIFDEN UNION.

Ballynashill,	1,350	480	3 1	2 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 2	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6
Bassett,	745	379	3 7	3 2	2 6	2 6	2 1	2 6	3 7	6 6	3 6	2 6	2 6
Bassett,	1,119	1,085	4 8	3 4	3 6	3 6	4 0	3 9	3 1	4 0	2 6	2 7	3 7
Clifden,	752	456	2 7	3 6	2 2	2 6	2 2	2 9	6 0	4 0	3 10	3 6	3 11
Clifden,	3,856	5,463	4 2	4 2	3 6	3 10	4 10	4 6	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 2
Crossferry,	601	800	1 11	3 8	2 0	3 2	5 0	5 0	3 4	3 10	2 6	3 11	3 9
Derreenagh,	374	254	1 11	2 0	2 2	2 6	2 6	2 0	3 6	3 4	3 10	3 10	3 6
Derreenagh,	507	597	1 11	3 0	3 11	3 2	3 1	3 2	3 1	3 6	3 2	3 2	3 2
Doonaghoe,	422	776	6 6	6 6	5 6	3 10	4 7	6 4	3 7	3 11	3 6	3 7	3 7
Enniskillen,	401	1,026	2 7	4 0	3 11	2 10	4 8	3 11	3 11	3 10	3 4	3 10	3 10
Idon,	116	307	3 1	3 9	3 8	3 8	3 1	3 9	3 7	4 3	3 2	3 6	3 10
Idon,	203	1,100	3 11	3 4	6 6	3 6	6 1	5 2	5 11	4 0	4 3	4 0	3 6
Knockboy,	1,343	2,361	2 10	3 3	3 2	3 4	2 11	2 6	3 1	4 6	4 2	3 11	3 7
Moynan,	1,005	1,064	3 7	3 8	3 6	3 0	3 10	3 6	3 2	4 0	3 6	3 6	3 6
Owneybeg,	378	577	3 7	3 6	2 2	2 2	2 7	3 2	4 10	4 6	3 9	3 6	3 2
Royley,	1,016	2,300	3 6	3 2	3 1	3 6	3 1	3 10	3 9	4 6	4 6	3 7	3 2
Rooney,	1,210	1,375	3 9	3 7	4 0	3 0	3 10	3 4	3 7	4 6	4 6	4 6	3 6
Silena,	627	2,006	2 1	2 9	2 2	3 8	4 1	3 9	3 7	6 0	4 6	4 11	3 6
Shanagh,	307	1,740	6 6	2 7	3 11	3 6	4 1	6 0	3 1	4 0	4 6	4 7	4 1
Total,	17,070	26,764											

GALWAY UNION.

Rates struck for Year beginning 29th September—continued.

Ecclesiastical Division	Valuation 1855.	Population 1855.	1871	1871	1876	1879	1882	1885	1888	1891	1894	1897	1900	1903	1906	Average
	£		£ d	s. d.	£ d.	s. d.	£ d.	s. d.	£ d.	s. d.	£ d.	s. d.	£ d.	s. d.	£ d.	s. d.
Aranyahew,	1,611	1,483	1 6	9 4	2 5	5 4	2 4	2 4	2 4	2 4	2 4	2 4	2 4	2 4	2 4	2 4
Asphuen,	1,719	693	1 3	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6
Ballynaworth,	2,715	616	1 2	1 10	2 8	5 8	2 6	0 6	1 8	2 4	1 30	1 7	2 0			
Ballinacorney,	1,684	596	1 0	1 5	1 6	2 5	1 4	1 0	1 8	2 8	1 8	1 5	1 6			
Berna,	3,262	1,615	1 6	1 6	2 6	2 6	1 8	2 5	1 8	1 6	2 2	2 1	2 1			
Bellville,	1,476	564	1 2	1 7	1 7	1 11	1 4	8 6	1 4	2 5	1 1	1 10	1 8			
Carmore,	1,423	692	1 2	1 4	1 9	5 7	1 6	1 4	1 8	1 6	1 7	1 2	1 8			
Carravassan,	693	514	1 6	1 6	1 10	3 11	1 6	1 8	2 0	2 0	2 5	2 5	1 18			
Carraigahew,	1,736	1,556	1 4	2 0	2 0	3 4	1 4	1 4	1 4	3 4	1 8	1 8	1 8			
Clashbridge,	1,606	1,666	1 4	1 6	1 11	8 6	1 6	1 6	1 4	1 6	2 4	1 4	1 6			
Erangish,	1,277	693	1 4	1 7	1 5	1 16	1 3	2 0	1 10	1 11	1 6	1 6	1 6			
Furlogh,	693	510	1 6	1 10	2 2	2 6	2 2	2 0	1 10	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6			
Galway,	86,797	36,607	2 6	2 6	2 6	6 6	6 6	6 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6			
Malinbeg,	1,567	2,015	2 6	2 6	1 6	2 7	2 6	2 0	2 4	2 6	4 6	1 9	2 6			
Rahemore,	622	1,675	1 30	2 1	1 8	2 6	3 2	4 6	2 6	4 6	2 18	2 9	2 6			
Rahemore,	607	650	1 6	1 7	1 4	2 1	2 6	2 6	1 8	2 6	1 6	2 6	1 11			
Ladysburg,	1,630	637	1 4	1 7	1 7	1 10	1 6	1 10	2 4	2 8	1 7	1 4	1 6			
Lisnawanna,	1,661	1,265	2 7	1 18	1 16	1 6	1 10	2 6	2 2	2 6	2 0	1 30	1 11			
Lisnawanna,	783	461	2 6	2 1	1 6	2 3	2 3	1 7	1 8	2 6	1 6	1 10	2 6			
Malinbeg,	618	771	1 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6			
Malinbeg,	710	772	1 18	2 6	2 10	4 6	2 4	1 16	2 0	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6			
Malinbeg,	686	1,330	2 6	1 6	4 0	4 0	8 6	1 18	1 18	6 6	5 6	5 6	5 6			
Malinbeg,	676	1,116	1 18	2 6	2 0	2 6	2 6	1 6	2 6	2 6	1 6	2 6	2 6			
Malinbeg,	676	1,116	2 4	2 6	1 10	2 10	2 4	2 2	1 10	6 6	2 6	1 16	2 6			
Malinbeg,	1,617	204	1 9	1 4	2 0	2 4	2 8	6 6	1 4	1 4	1 8	1 4	1 6			
Malinbeg,	1,362	610	2 6	2 6	2 4	2 6	2 4	2 4	1 4	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6			
Total,	65,959	41,161														

DOUGHERARD UNION.

Cumac,	269	116	2 3	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6
Clashier,	1,697	5,661	2 6	2 6	4 6	5 6	2 6	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0
Cora,	1,666	1,362	2 0	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6
Craspa,	946	1,675	2 3	3 6	3 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6
Cra,	413	350	1 6	1 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6
Craspa,	613	1,120	1 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6
Craspa,	314	326	1 6	2 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6
Letterkenny,	726	779	2 6	2 6	6 6	1 0	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6
Letterkenny,	779	666	2 6	2 6	2 6	4 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6
Letterkenny,	653	1,403	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6
Cashin,	2,404	2,027	3 4	2 6	3 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6
Cashin,	457	354	1 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6
Cashin,	616	1,726	1 6	2 6	2 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6	4 6
Cashin,	2,367	1,641	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6
Total,	15,015	26,783														

SWINERD UNION.

Rates struck for Year beginning 29th of September—continued.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Valuation in 1891.	Population in 1891.	1871.	1876.	1881.	1886.	1891.	1896.	1901.	1906.	1911.	1916.	1921.	Average
	£		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Agincourt,	1,109	1,216	1 3	9 0	1 3	9 6	2 7	1 10	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3
Edinmore,	2,187	1,170	1 1	1 2	1 3	2 0	3 3	1 10	2 2	3 6	2 3	1 11	1 3	1 3
Folsk,	3,719	1,091	0 30	1 2	1 3	3 3	3 1	1 3	1 3	2 3	2 3	2 3	2 3	2 3
Blackdon,	1,319	8,114	1 30	3 3	2 3	2 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3
Calow,	1,381	3,438	1 3	1 11	2 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	2 3	3 3	3 13	2 3	2 3	2 3
Clonsmore,	1,703	3,316	1 30	3 4	3 4	3 10	3 0	2 1	2 3	3 3	3 1	3 4	3 30	3 30
Coelmah,	1,696	1,307	1 3	3 3	1 3	2 3	3 0	3 1	3 0	3 1	3 7	2 3	3 3	3 3
Colloo,	1,773	1,719	3 3	1 10	1 7	1 3	3 3	3 4	2 4	3 3	2 3	2 7	2 4	2 4
Donnada,	1,617	3,540	1 4	1 3	1 10	1 10	2 3	1 30	2 30	2 11	3 4	3 4	3 3	3 3
Edinmore,	2,507	1,021	1 3	1 11	3 3	1 11	2 3	3 3	3 0	3 6	3 4	2 3	2 3	2 3
Kilfolly,	1,342	1,163	1 3	1 10	2 0	2 0	3 3	3 0	2 3	3 0	2 1	2 11	3 3	3 3
Kilfina,	1,785	2,021	1 4	2 3	1 3	1 11	3 3	2 3	2 4	1 3	3 3	3 3	3 4	3 4
Kilmore,	1,320	2,013	3 3	3 6	3 3	3 0	3 0	3 10	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	2 11	2 11
Kilmore,	1,120	3,736	2 3	3 0	1 3	2 0	3 4	3 11	3 3	3 6	3 1	3 0	3 3	3 3
Marick,	1,701	2,477	1 4	1 10	1 3	3 3	3 1	3 3	2 4	2 4	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3
Marick,	1,176	2,117	3 0	1 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 4	2 3	2 11	2 11
Swinsford,	4,732	1,112	3 3	3 3	2 3	2 11	3 4	3 11	3 10	3 3	3 3	3 3	2 11	2 11
Townsmagh,	1,190	1,366	3 11	1 2	1 3	1 3	3 3	1 11	3 4	1 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3
Townsmagh,	3,036	3,377	1 3	3 4	3 7	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 4	3 3	2 3	3 3	3 3
Temple,	1,136	1,741	1 4	1 4	1 3	2 1	3 3	3 4	3 6	3 3	2 7	2 7	2 1	2 1
Ulrick,	1,174	3,075	1 3	3 3	1 3	1 3	3 3	1 10	2 3	3 3	2 10	3 10	2 3	2 3
Total,	42,712	41,716												

WESTPORT UNION.

Abell,	643	1,024	2 10	0 3	1 3	2 3	3 3	4 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	2 10	2 3	2 3
Agincourt, North,	2,600	367	0 3	1 7	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 7	1 10	1 3	1 10	1 3	3 3	3 3
Agincourt, South,	315	404	0 11	1 7	1 0	1 4	1 7	1 7	1 10	1 4	1 7	1 3	1 3	1 3
Agincourt,	306	1,493	1 3	1 3	3 3	1 3	3 3	3 1	3 10	3 4	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3
Ballymore, North,	1,610	1,070	4 1	3 4	1 3	2 3	3 3	4 3	3 3	4 3	2 3	3 4	2 3	2 3
Ballymore, South,	391	413	4 3	3 10	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	4 3	7 3	4 3	4 3	4 3
Bandoragh,	305	113	1 2	1 11	1 3	1 3	1 11	1 3	3 3	1 7	2 3	2 3	1 3	1 3
Clare Island,	665	737	1 1	3 3	1 3	1 3	3 3	3 3	3 10	2 10	3 3	3 7	3 3	3 3
Clayton,	1,141	2,457	1 3	1 7	1 3	1 4	3 3	3 10	2 10	1 10	1 7	1 7	1 3	1 3
Corran Abell,	309	1,127	4 7	3 3	1 3	3 3	3 3	3 7	3 3	3 3	4 11	3 4	2 3	2 3
Orr's Patrick,	1,244	1,033	1 7	3 0	3 3	1 11	3 4	1 10	3 3	1 11	3 3	3 1	3 1	3 1
Derryboughton,	2,372	1,133	3 3	1 7	1 3	3 3	3 3	3 4	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3	2 7	2 7
Doonagh,	731	1,781	3 7	1 3	1 3	3 3	3 4	4 3	3 3	3 3	4 3	1 11	2 0	2 0
Drumagh,	680	321	1 1	1 3	1 10	1 3	1 3	1 10	1 3	1 7	1 3	1 3	1 7	1 7
Enagh,	383	1,136	2 0	2 0	1 3	3 3	1 3	2 1	2 10	3 3	1 3	2 3	2 0	2 0
Erin,	380	137	1 2	1 3	1 3	3 11	2 3	1 10	3 3	1 3	2 7	1 3	1 3	1 3
Glenesh,	644	1,037	2 3	1 10	1 3	2 3	3 4	3 3	2 4	4 0	1 3	3 3	2 3	2 3
Inchmully,	2,220	2,707	1 0	1 6	3 3	1 3	1 3	1 10	1 10	1 3	1 7	1 3	1 3	1 3
Kilmore,	324	413	1 3	1 7	1 3	3 3	2 3	3 3	1 10	2 2	1 4	1 3	1 10	1 10
Kilmore,	1,162	313	—	3 3	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 7	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 3
Kilmore,	4,373	2,133	1 3	1 7	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 10	1 4	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7
Kilnagall,	331	1,201	1 7	3 3	3 3	1 3	2 7	3 1	3 10	3 3	1 4	1 3	2 3	2 3
Kilnagall,	1,381	1,126	1 3	1 1	1 1	1 3	3 6	1 10	1 3	3 3	1 3	2 7	1 3	1 3

WESTPORT UNION—continued.

RATES struck for the Year beginning 25th September—continued.

RESPECTIVE DIVISION	Valuation in 1870.	Population in 1871.	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	Average
	£		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Loonahugh, L.	1,130	1,800	7 1	8 0	9 0	9 0	9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2	9 2
Westport, East,	2,712	3,214	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4	4 4
Westport, West,	1,000	1,200	5 0	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4	5 4
Oxapaddenham,	400	500	1 1	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7	1 7
Slieve Mahonagh,	577	670	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Slieve Donard,	550	1,200	6 0	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2	6 2
Stranahan,	600	600	8 0	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2	8 2
Westport,	8,830	10,000	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0
Total,	44,210	60,774																	

BALLINA UNION.

Ardrigh,	2,800	3,200	8 10	8 0	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10
Ardrigh, North,	1,100	1,200	8 11	8 0	8 11	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10
Ardrigh, South,	1,700	2,000	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Ardrigh, East,	610	1,200	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Ardrigh, West,	1,000	1,000	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Ballyn,	30,810	30,810	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Ballyn,	4,400	4,400	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Ballyn,	610	610	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Carroonagh,	2,800	3,200	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Carroonagh, North,	2,000	2,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Carroonagh, South,	800	800	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Dool,	1,070	1,070	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Derry,	700	700	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Ferrieh,	2,000	2,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Kilgarragh,	1,210	1,210	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Lattinagh,	610	610	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Mount Pelton,	2,000	2,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Robins,	1,000	1,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Robins,	1,000	1,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Robins,	1,000	1,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Total,	60,000	60,000																	

KILLALA UNION.

Ballyvaughan,	5,071	5,071	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Ballyvaughan,	500	500	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Killala, East,	2,000	2,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Killala, South,	1,000	1,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Killala, West,	1,000	1,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Killala,	1,000	1,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Killala, South,	1,000	1,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Killala, South,	1,000	1,000	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
Total,	20,000	20,000																	

TABLE VIII.—CLASSIFICATION OF ESTATES AND LIABILITY OF OWNERS.

Towns.	CLASSIFICATION OF ESTATES.			PER-CENTAGE OF LIABILITY OF OWNERS.		
	Amount of Holdings valued at and under £5.	Amount of Holdings valued over £5.	Total Valuation.	As Individuals Lessors of Holdings valued at and under £5.	As Landlords of Holdings valued over £5.	Total.
Bolton, . . .	4,079	7,815	11,894	25.0	39.2	30.6
Clifton, . . .	6,079	22,255	28,334	21.2	56.4	42.6
Gallop, . . .	3,285	24,097	27,382	0	42.5	42.5
Oughton, . . .	4,391	16,621	21,012	20	20	20
Swathead, . . .	10,745	48,230	58,975	20.2	20.9	20.5
Westport, . . .	11,264	47,087	58,351	25.4	47.5	42.7

TABLE IX.—CLASSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS IN 1881.

Towns.	Number of Agricultural Holdings valued			Totals.	Percentage of Holdings valued at and under £4.
	At £4 and under.	Over £4 and not over £20.	Over £20.		
Bolton, . . .	2,261	613	365	3,239	69.8
Clifton, . . .	2,561	618	372	4,551	56.3
Gallop, . . .	656	612	373	3,641	37.5
Oughton, . . .	1,089	602	343	2,034	53.5
Swathead, . . .	4,008	3,427	346	7,781	51.5
Westport, . . .	4,013	1,490	276	5,779	69.5

TABLE X.—COUNTY CENSUS for the Years 1884-5-6.

Towns.	Barrow.	1884.	1885.	1886.	Average.
Bolton, . . .	Barrow, . . .	5 14½	6 4½	6 4½	6 4½
Clifton, . . .	Ballyshannon, . . .	2 1½	2 1½	2 4½	2 1½
Gallop, . . .	Anna, . . .	1 5½	1 2	2 10½	1 3
Do, . . .	Athlone, . . .	2 4	2 5½	1 7½	2 1½
Do, . . .	Clare, . . .	1 4½	2 3½	1 1½	1 1½
Do, . . .	Dealin, . . .	2 4½	2 1½	1 6½	2 1½
Do, . . .	Gallop, . . .	5 11	2 5	6 3	6 4½
Do, . . .	Maydown, . . .	4 2½	6 4½	2 4½	6 1½
Do, . . .	Maydown, . . .	2 5	1 1½	1 7½	1 1½
Oughton, . . .	Kilmore, . . .	2 7½	2 6½	1 10½	2 1½
Do, . . .	Maydown, . . .	4 7½	2 4½	2 4½	6 1½
Do, . . .	May, . . .	6 4½	2 4½	2 4½	6 4½
Swathead, . . .	Carrick, . . .	2 4½	2 4½	2 4	2 4½
Do, . . .	Gallop, . . .	2 6	2 6	1 10½	2 3
Westport, . . .	Ballyshannon, North, . . .	2 6½	2 7½	2 1	2 4½
Do, . . .	Do, South, . . .	1 1	1 1½	1 6	1 1
Do, . . .	Carrick, . . .	2 1½	2 6	1 4½	1 1½
Do, . . .	Kilmore, . . .	6 1½	2 4½	2 4½	6 4½
Do, . . .	May, . . .	2 4½	2 4½	2 4½	2 4½

TABLE XL.—POPULATION AND VALUATIONS.

BRACKLEY UNION.

Dis- trict.	Electoral Division.	Population in			Valua- tion, 1851.	Valuation per head of Popu- lation.	Dis- trict.	Electoral Division.	Population in			Valua- tion, 1851.	Valuation per head of Popu- lation.
		1841.	1851.	1861.					1841.	1851.	1861.		
Barrow,	Barrow, .	517	518	586	421	0 12 7	Barrow, town.	Brighamsdown, South	3,373	3,373	3,864	3,373	0 12 7
	Glenacree, .	1,585	1,537	1,138	612	0 13 8		—	11,351	9,426	6,253	5,175	0 14 9
	Glenacree, .	406	386	303	401	1 8 3		Barrow, North	1,337	1,337	1,337	1,337	0 14 3
	Glenacree, .	431	519	484	512	0 13 1		Glenacree, .	407	407	363	330	0 14 13
	Barrow, .	5,805	5,015	3,656	207	0 7 10		Knocknash, North	500	490	514	415	0 13 4
	Barrow, .	185	185	259	228	1 9 9		Knocknash, South	3,319	3,319	3,717	3,319	0 14 9
	—	6,018	5,016	4,017	2,016	0 12 8		Wangnash, North	515	410	705	404	0 10 7
	—	—	—	—	—	—		Wangnash, South	515	505	515	415	0 14 3
	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	9,238	6,216	4,745	3,613	0 13 1
	—	—	—	—	—	—		Total.	21,361	17,316	14,611	13,014	0 13 5
Barrow,	Barrow, .	2,205	2,213	2,213	1,013	0 12 9	Barrow, town.	Barrow, South	3,319	3,319	3,717	3,319	0 14 9
	Barrow, .	2,205	2,213	2,213	1,013	0 12 9		Total.	21,361	17,316	14,611	13,014	0 13 5

CLIFDEN UNION.

Clifden,	Benmore, .	1,207	2,007	1,107	1,213	0 12 3	Clifden, town.	Benmore, .	141	141	171	141	0 12 4
	Clifden, .	1,007	1,007	1,013	1,013	0 12 3		Benmore, South	400	400	400	400	0 12 3
	Clifden, .	401	401	401	401	1 4 3		Clifden, .	141	141	171	141	0 12 4
	Clifden, .	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3		Benmore, North	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3
	Clifden, .	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3		Benmore, South	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3
	Clifden, .	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3		Benmore, North	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3
	Clifden, .	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3		Benmore, South	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3
	Clifden, .	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3		Benmore, North	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3
	Clifden, .	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3		Benmore, South	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3
	Clifden, .	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3		Total.	12,013	12,013	12,013	12,013	0 12 3
Clifden,	Clifden, .	2,213	2,213	2,213	1,013	0 12 3	Clifden, town.	Clifden, .	1,013	1,013	1,013	1,013	0 12 3
	Clifden, .	2,213	2,213	2,213	1,013	0 12 3		Total.	12,013	12,013	12,013	12,013	0 12 3

GARWAY UNION.

Garway,	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3	Garway, town.	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3
	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3		Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3
	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3		Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3
	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3		Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3
	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3		Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3
	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3		Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3
	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3		Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3
	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3		Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3
	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3		Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3
	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3		Total.	12,013	12,013	12,013	12,013	0 12 3
Garway,	Garway, .	2,213	2,213	2,213	1,013	0 12 3	Garway, town.	Garway, .	1,213	1,213	1,213	1,213	0 12 3
	Garway, .	2,213	2,213	2,213	1,013	0 12 3		Total.	12,013	12,013	12,013	12,013	0 12 3

TABLE XI.—POPULATION AND VALUATION—continued.

QUINTEBRIDGE UNION.

Ecclesiastical District.	Ecclesiastical Division.	Population in			Valuation, 1851.	Valuation per head of Population.	Ecclesiastical District.	Ecclesiastical Division.	Population in			Valuation, 1851.	Valuation per head of Population.
		1841.	1851.	1871.					1841.	1851.	1871.		
Quinteborough.	Chorlton,	5,795	5,172	5,031	5,095	0 8 4	Lutterworth.	Lutterworth,	1,345	1,507	1,545	4	0 0 0
	Coze,	1,007	1,193	1,212	1,250	0 12 4		Tatling,	1,521	1,693	1,779	700	0 11 4
	Can,	481	512	570	451	0 12 5		—	5,112	5,845	5,915	5,955	0 7 7
	Lutterworth,	565	765	778	725	1 0 0		Kilnham,	245	395	515	174	0 0 0
	Don,	313	322	336	301	1 0 0		Lutterworth,	1,102	1,000	945	791	0 0 0
	—	7,753	6,112	6,263	5,762	0 18 4		Quinteborough,	5,774	5,112	5,137	5,154	0 10 0
	Canal,	694	702	715	747	0 0 4		Wormdale,	5,120	5,167	5,261	5,281	0 0 4
	Quinteborough,	5,445	5,794	5,475	5,000	0 7 7		—	5,650	6,770	5,415	5,611	1 0 4
	Garnham,	5,415	5,736	5,710	5,000	0 7 7		Total,	25,545	15,700	16,505	15,721	0 15 8
	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—

SWINFORD UNION.

Swinford.	Colton,	2,530	1,912	1,475	1,646	0 12 7	Kilnham.	Kilnham,	9,061	5,213	5,706	5,200	0 11 10
	Canal,	5,144	5,320	5,150	5,146	0 12 7		Twinnham,	1,561	1,403	1,206	1,202	0 12 8
	Townham,	4,910	5,120	5,077	5,089	1 1 3		—	18,482	7,615	6,912	6,402	0 13 7
	—	5,912	5,564	5,664	5,782	0 10 5		Canal,	5,001	5,000	5,000	1,011	0 0 0
	Agham,	5,660	5,502	5,500	5,500	0 17 6		Deerham,	5,517	5,517	5,517	5,517	0 12 8
	Colton,	1,711	1,711	1,707	1,699	0 12 5		Kilnham,	5,002	5,001	5,011	5,007	0 12 11
	Kilnham,	5,004	5,746	5,746	5,746	0 11 5		—	5,004	5,004	5,004	5,004	0 12 11
	Canal,	5,007	5,007	5,007	5,007	0 12 5		—	18,719	10,014	11,205	7,604	0 12 5
	Don,	5,150	5,274	5,274	5,274	0 0 7		Bracton,	5,216	5,216	5,216	1,516	0 12 8
	—	12,317	12,647	12,700	12,700	0 12 5		Medley,	5,207	5,207	5,207	5,207	1 1 1
Kilnham.	Canal,	5,001	5,001	5,001	5,001	1 0 0	Swinford.	Swinford,	5,015	5,015	5,015	5,015	0 17 6
	Canal,	5,001	5,001	5,001	5,001	1 0 0		Townham,	5,011	5,011	5,011	5,011	1 0 1
	Canal,	5,001	5,001	5,001	5,001	1 0 0		—	15,004	15,004	15,004	15,004	0 10 0
	Canal,	5,001	5,001	5,001	5,001	1 0 0		Total,	16,611	16,611	16,611	16,611	0 10 2
	Canal,	5,001	5,001	5,001	5,001	1 0 0		—	—	—	—	—	—
	Canal,	5,001	5,001	5,001	5,001	1 0 0		—	—	—	—	—	—
	Canal,	5,001	5,001	5,001	5,001	1 0 0		—	—	—	—	—	—
	Canal,	5,001	5,001	5,001	5,001	1 0 0		—	—	—	—	—	—
	Canal,	5,001	5,001	5,001	5,001	1 0 0		—	—	—	—	—	—
	Canal,	5,001	5,001	5,001	5,001	1 0 0		—	—	—	—	—	—

WATFORD UNION.

Watford.	Agham,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0	Watford.	Watford,	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1 0 0
	Do,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		—	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		—	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		—	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		—	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		—	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		—	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		—	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		—	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		—	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	1 0 0
Watford.	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0	Watford.	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0
	Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0		Canal,	5,117	5,117	5,117	5,117	0 0 0

IRELAND.

Population in			Valuation, 1851.	Valuation per head of Population.
1841.	1851.	1871.		
3,125,324	3,174,875	3,174,875	£ 22,812,500	£ 0 0 7 1/2

TABLE XII.—EXPENDITURE in BELMULLEY UNION, by Triennial Periods, from 1852 to 1885 inclusive.

Year ended 29th September.	In Maintenance.	Out-Relief.	Maintenance of Road and Trench, and Payments in Return Hospitals.	Emigration Expenses.	Salaries and Expenses of Officers.	All other Poor Relief Expenditure.	Total Poor Relief Expenditure.	Expenses under Medical Charities Act.	Expenses under all other Acts.	Total of Poor Relief Expenditure.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852, .	1,120	—	—	—	222	552	1,094	32	—	1,070
1855, .	680	—	—	—	175	360	107	—	—	1,107
1858, .	566	—	—	—	212	313	493	302	—	764
1861, .	779	2	—	—	218	310	1,109	201	—	1,494
1864, .	821	2	—	—	279	375	1,477	245	—	1,711
1867, .	842	22	2	—	333	375	1,550	362	21	1,873
1870, .	881	32	—	—	354	407	1,644	318	21	2,003
1873, .	813	88	—	—	417	363	1,731	411	66	2,193
1876, .	927	74	23	—	415	425	1,874	398	243	2,390
1879, .	1,006	129	30	2	507	383	2,028	374	318	2,660
1882, .	1,261	256	16	—	513	376	2,186	324	219	2,671
1885, .	727	194	—	—	402	392	1,599	302	412	2,193

TABLE XIII.—FINANCIAL STATEMENT, showing estimated result of Amalgamation of the BALLINA, BELMULLEY, and KILLALA Unions, calculated on the audited Abstracts of the Union Accounts for the Year ended the 29th September, 1885.

VARIATION.	Ballina. £69,545.	Belmullet. £12,896.	Killala. £20,498.	Amalgamated Union. £102,939.				
				Ballina, as before.	Add for		Total	
					Belmullet.	Killala.		
A. Union at Large Expenditure—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I. Establishment Charges, .	1,122 0 0	600 0 0	525 0 0	1,222 0 0	110 0 0	70 0 0	—	—
II. Union at Large Papers, .	518 2 0	160 0 0	104 0 0	462 0 0	140 0 0	122 0 0	—	—
III. Registration and other Acts, .	97 0 0	90 0 0	16 0 0	97 0 0	80 0 0	100 0 0	—	—
Total,	1,655 0 0	850 0 0	712 0 0	1,668 0 0	332 0 0	292 0 0	1,312 0 0	—
Poundage,	0 0 8	0 1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	0 0 7	—
Poundage Gains by Amalgamation, .	0 0 1	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	—	—
B. Electoral Division Papers—								
Average Weekly Cost,	0 3 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 3 5	0 3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$					
Gain, owing to maintenance at Ballina, &c.,	—	63 0 0	70 0 0					
Poundage Gain,	—	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$					
C. Effect of Poor Law Rating Act—								
Cost of In Maintenance,	1,420 0 0	727 0 0	584 0 0					
Poundage of Cost,	0 0 7	0 1 4	0 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$					
*Excess, apportioned over Unions, .	243 0 0	143 0 0	—					
Poundage of Excess,	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—					
Poundage Gain or Loss by Amalgamation, .	Nd.	+0 0 2	-0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$					
Summary of above, showing Poundage Gain or Loss by Amalgamation—								
A. Union at Large Expenditure, .	+0 0 1	+0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$					
B. Electoral Division Papers, . .	—	+0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$					
C. Effect of Poor Law Rating Act, .	—	+0 0 2	-0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$					
Total Gain,	0 0 1	0 1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 1					

* These amounts have been derived from the Abstracts of Accounts.

TABLE XIV.—Showing FINANCIAL RESULT of AMALGAMATION of OUGHTERBARD UNION with adjoining UNIONS, calculated on the AUDITED ABSTRACTS of the UNION ACCOUNTS for the year ended the 29th September, 1885.

	Ballerbea.	Clisha.	Galweg.	Daghinard.
	£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s d.
Valuation of present Union,	72,275 0 0	37,561 3 0	65,462 1 0	13,264 0 0
" annexed Divisions,	2,264 0 0	2,512 0 0	4,216 2 8	—
" proposed Union,	64,522 0 0	30,049 0 0	72,229 3 0	—
A—Union-at-Large Expenditure:—				
(1) Establishment charges,	1,561 3 8	512 0 0	1,780 0 0	145 0 0
(2) Maintenance of Union-at-Large paupers,	272 0 0	316 3 8	1,302 3 8	270 0 0
(3) Registration and other Acts,	267 0 0	516 3 8	318 3 8	63 0 0
Total,	2,099 0 0	1,344 3 8	3,399 3 8	478 0 0
Future additions for annexed Divisions:—				
(1) Relieving Officers,	27 3 8	27 0 0	40 0 0	—
(2) Preparation of Union-at-Large paupers,	22 3 8	40 0 0	130 0 0	—
(3) Registration and other Acts,	32 3 8	27 0 0	23 0 0	—
Total,	2,479 0 0	1,172 3 8	3,475 0 0	—
Foundings of present charges,				
" future charges,	0 0 6½	0 1 3½	0 2 0	0 1 1
Foundings of Guts to old Union,	0 0 0	0 1 12	0 6 12½	—
" annexed Divisions,	0 0 6½	0 0 1	0 3 3½	—
Loss to annexed Divisions,	—	—	0 0 12	—
B—Electoral Division Purposes:—				
Average weekly cost,	0 5 12	0 3 5½	0 0 4½	0 6 6½
Gains to annexed Divisions,	—	37 3 8	—	—
Loss to annexed Divisions,	5 0 0	—	—	—
Foundings of gains,	—	0 0 3½	—	—
C—Effect of Poor Law Rating Act:—				
(1) Excess apportioned at present over whole Union,	342 8 8	184 0 0	167 0 0	53 0 0
(2) Do, with respect to annexed Divisions,	—	16 0 0	20 0 0	—
(3) Total,	342 8 8	200 0 0	187 0 0	53 0 0
Foundings of present excess,				
Foundings of future excess,	0 0 6½	0 0 12	0 0 5½	0 0 6½
Loss to gains to old Union,	—	—	0 0 5½	—
Loss to annexed Divisions,	—	0 0 1	0 0 6½	—

SUMMARY OF ABOVE.

	BALLERBEA.		CLISHA.		GALWEG.	
	Present Union.	Annexed Divisions.	Present Union.	Annexed Divisions.	Present Union.	Annexed Divisions.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
A—Union-at-Large Expenditure,	+ 2	+ 4	+ 1	— 1	+ 2	+ 14
B—Electoral Division Purposes,	—	—	—	+ 54	—	—
C—Effect of Poor Law Rating Act,	—	—	—	— 1	—	— 1
Total Gains,	+ 2	+ 4	+ 1	+ 1	+ 2	+ 12

APPENDIX B.

I.—INSTRUCTIONAL LETTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD TO GUARDIANS.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
30th April, 1886.

SIR,—With reference to the letter addressed to the Board of Guardians of Beinalet Union, authorizing them to administer out-door relief, under certain conditions, to persons to whom such relief may not be afforded under the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, the Board think it right to express a hope that the power so given to the Guardians may be exercised with caution and with due regard to the interest of the ratepayers, though, at the same time, with care that all really destitute persons are afforded the necessary relief.

The Board desire to call the especial attention of the Guardians to that part of the letter which requires that every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of the letter shall be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives such relief.

The manner in which this important part of the letter should be carried into effect demands the immediate and earnest attention of the Guardians.

The Board are aware that a labour test cannot be established through a large Union without expense, and without great and persevering exertion on the part of the Guardians; but on the other hand, the distress which has led to the issue of the letter authorizing relief in food and fuel to the able-bodied presents the two alternatives, either of such a system as the one now laid down, or of a system of rations uncheckered by any test or condition.

But the latter system, even when administered with the greatest care and under the best control, must involve a profuse expenditure, and demoralize the population, and, by making them independent of their ordinary employments, diminish the productive resources of the country, and accumulate masses of distress.

In every electoral division, therefore, in which the Guardians find it necessary to avail themselves of the power to give relief to the able-bodied, it is their imperative duty, in discharge of the trust which they have received from the ratepayers, to provide a system of task-work, and to appoint a sufficient number of Superintendents of Labour, or additional Relieving Officers.

These appointments should be made, not personally, like those of the regular Relieving Officers, but for each time only as their services may be required.

The Guardians will have to determine the amount of rations to be given to each recipient of relief after the performance of the task.

The Guardians may probably expect from the Local Government Board some principles to assist them in determining the task of work and the amount of rations in each case; the Board, therefore, desire to

observe, that it is not necessary that the amount of rations should bear any direct proportion to the task; on the contrary, the letter itself requires that each recipient should give a full day's work for every day for which he receives relief, and it is manifest that the amount of rations must depend on the number of persons who, besides himself are dependent on him for support.

The justice of this arrangement stands on the following basis:—The food is given, not as the price of labour, but as the relief of destitution. The labour given in return is the condition of receiving that relief, and if the necessities of the recipient and his family are wholly relieved, it is just that he should give in return the full value of his labour, whatever that may be.

The Guardians, acting on the above principle, will have to determine the amount of daily labour which may fairly be claimed from an adult male of average strength; secondly, from an adult male often less than the average strength; and, lastly, from a male applicant above fifteen years of age, but not yet adult, respectively. The rations, as already observed, will be in proportion to the number dependent for support on the person relieved.

The selection of the places proper for the employment of the applicants, in sufficient but not too great numbers, and the providing of such implements as it may be found necessary to provide for those coming to labour, are points which will necessarily have the attention of the Guardians in due course.

The Local Government Board trust that the Guardians will take into consideration the arrangements necessary to enable them to carry out this letter with most effect and advantage, and with the least possible delay.

The Guardians must bear in mind that the grants to aid in defraying the charge of any Electoral Division in the Union, in pursuance of Section 3 of the Poor Relief Bill, will only be recommended when the Board are satisfied that the relief required cannot be afforded in such Division by means of the rates which might be collected thereon, and that it does not follow, as a matter of course, that because exceptional relief may become necessary in a fairly well circumstanced Electoral Division, a grant will be made to that Division.

The Board will transmit to the Guardians a form showing the particulars which they will require respecting the expenditure and relief afforded in any Electoral Division for which the Guardians may desire to obtain a grant.

I am, &c.

W. D. WATSON, Secretary.

To the Clerk, Beinalet Union.

II.—INSTRUCTIONAL LETTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD TO GUARDIANS.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
10th May, 1886.

SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to state that, in consequence of information which has reached them from various sources, they apprehend that the Boards of Guardians of some of the Unions, in which authority to administer out-door relief to the able-bodied classes has been

granted, are not fully aware of their position and duties in that respect.

The Board find that in some instances Boards of Guardians have appointed additional Relieving Officers to superintend the execution of the works established as a test of destitution, and that the Relieving Officers and additional Relieving Officers have been authorized to employ persons on these works, although the cases of such persons had not previously been considered by

the Guardians in the usual manner, and relief ordered on the application and report book, and with reference to this practice, the Board desire to point out that no person can legally be relieved except by authority of the Guardians previously given in each case, or by the Relieving Officer, provisionally, in a case of sudden and urgent necessity, and that any relief given in a manner at variance with this enactment, whether to persons employed on the works opened by the Guardians or not, would be illegal, and the cost would be liable to be disallowed by the Auditor, and surcharged to the Guardians authorizing the payment thereof.

The Board also find that an impression prevails in some places that a certain sum has been or will be allocated to each Union, under the provisions of the Poor Relief Bill, to meet the expense of the out-door relief afforded thereby, and the Board think it necessary to observe that such an impression is erroneous. The Board, in their letter, issued last month, stated that "the grants to aid in defraying the charge of any Electoral Division in the Union, in pursuance of Section 3 of the Poor Relief Bill, will only be recommended when the Board are satisfied that the relief required cannot be afforded in each Division by means of the rates which might be collected therein, and that

it does not follow, as a matter of course, that because exceptional relief may become necessary in a fully well circumstanced Electoral Division, a grant will be made to that Division," and the Board must now impress upon the Guardians the state of the case, as set forth in that letter; the cost of out-door relief will be charged, in the usual way, on the poor rates of the Electoral Division in which it is afforded, and the cost of such relief must be borne by the rates of the Division, unless in any case in which the Board may be satisfied that the Electoral Division requires assistance, and may recommend that a grant be made to aid in defraying the charge thereof.

The Board have no desire to place any obstacle in the way of the Guardians affording relief when it may be required, but they think it necessary to caution the Guardians against allowing any lax, irregular, and illegal practice to prevail, which would probably involve the Guardians in embarrassment hereafter, and impose unnecessary expense on the ratepayers.

I am, &c.,

THOMAS A. MOONEY,
Assistant Secretary.

To the Clerk, Rahmillet Union.

III.—INSTRUCTIONAL LETTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD TO GUARDIANS.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
31st May, 1885.

SIR,—The Local Government Board for Ireland have reason to believe that an impression prevails in some of the Unions named in the Schedule to the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1884, that the cost of the relief afforded under that Act in some Electoral Divisions will be entirely defrayed by means of the grants which may be made under the 3rd Section.

The Board also have reason to believe that the proper and necessary discrimination is not always exercised by the Guardians in dealing with the applications for relief.

The Board, therefore, desire to call the Guardians very serious attention to the fact that the Section referred to enacts that each grant shall be limited to such amount as the Local Government Board may find necessary to "aid in defraying the charge of any Electoral Division or Divisions in the Union, having regard to the financial condition and the pressure of distress within the limits of such Electoral Division or Divisions."

The Guardians will see that the total amount which may be awarded to Poor Law Unions under this Section is £20,000, and that the money has been provided by Parliament to assist six unions.

They should therefore carefully bear in mind that the proportion which can be given to each union is very small. Whatever expenditure is incurred over the amount of any grants which may be made must be borne by the poor rates.

What will inevitably happen is that the ratepayers of the union will, therefore, be heavily taxed when the next rate is made if the Guardians are not most vigilant in the selection of the persons for the receipt of relief.

I am, &c.,

THOMAS A. MOONEY,
Assistant Secretary.

To the Clerk, Rahmillet Union.

Similar letters were addressed to the Guardians of the other scheduled Unions.

LETTER OF MR. ARTHUR BOURKE, Local Government Inspector, relating to the Evidence of the Rev. Mr. Flannery.

Galway, 10th February, 1887.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of 7th inst., enclosing an extract from the evidence of the Rev. Mr. Flannery given before the Poor Relief Inquiry Commission, and requesting my remarks thereon, I beg to state for the information of the Commission that as regards the statement, No. 6915 and 6916 Minutes of Evidence, the Rev. Mr. Flannery labours under a misapprehension. The facts are as follows:—At the meeting of the Dublin Board of Guardians on the 28th April, 1885, the Guardians deferred carrying out the provisions of the Relief of Distress Act, 1884, until their next meeting. As your Commission are aware, the arranging of what labour test should be enforced when allowing relief, &c., was entrusted to the guardian for each division, the relieving officer, and the clergyman. The Rev. Mr. Flannery was very anxious to have the relief works started as soon in the Carna district, in which he was interested, instead of delaying the question for a week. I suggested that, perhaps, the Guardians might, to meet his views,

reconsider their decision and allow the provisions of the Act to be put into operation in the said district (a very poor one) without further delay. A division was taken upon the question which was negatived. I thereupon advised Rev. Father Flannery, the relieving officer, and the guardians of the district to have all arrangements made to be able to put the provisions of the Relief of Distress Act in force immediately after the next meeting of the Board, when the authority of the guardians was to be given. The relieving officer, during the intervening time, to be most careful to give prompt relief in any case of sudden or urgent necessity which might arise. Having no power to do so I gave no authorisation such as the Rev. Mr. Flannery seems to have supposed.

I am, &c.,

ARTHUR BOURKE, Inspector.

D. J. MacShoshan, Esq., Secretary,
Poor Relief (Ireland) Inquiry Commission.

LETTER of Mr. LARMINE, Poor Rate Collector, relating to the Collection of Rates in Innisturk.

Castlbar, 4th December, 1885.

GENTLEMEN.—I am informed that during the recent inquiry held by you at Westport, you expressed dissatisfaction at the state of my collection of the rates on Innisturk Island, and gave it as your opinion that the Guardians should before now have taken proceedings against me to enforce the collection.

I regret I was not present to give an explanation, but, as you are aware, I was not able to attend on the second day of the inquiry, and I was given to understand that it would not extend beyond the two days.

The circumstances under which I took up the collection are within the recollection of one of the Commissioners. It was entirely for the purpose of saving the ratepayers, as from 5s. to 10s. in the £1 was demanded by other parties for the collection. At the best I could make nothing of the transaction, but I thought that working it with my agency business I could carry out my object, and facilitate the collection of the rates. That for this year I have not been successful, I freely admit. I served notices on all the ratepayers in the island, and was only restrained from taking proceedings by promises and representations, principally from the clergyman of the district, Rev. J. J. Quinn, that if time were given all would be satis-

factorily settled when sale could be made of stock, &c. I regret to say these representations have not been verified, and I fear there is a desire, if not a determination, on the part of these people not to pay anything. Several of them were in Westport on 1st November last, when I held an office in the town, of which they had notice, but not one of them came near me. I am credibly informed that one of the number in presence of the others said they were fools to pay anything, meaning either rent or taxes. I may observe that the rent is even more in arrears than the taxes.

I hope to visit the island in a few days, when if the rates are not paid I shall at once take legal proceedings for their recovery. Summary proceedings such as distress are impossible, there being no "poor" on the island, and stock or goods could not be seized and then conveyed to the mainland till first sold by public auction.

Trusting this explanation may be considered satisfactory,

I have the honour to be, &c.,

A. O. LARMINE.

To the Poor Relief Act
Inquiry Commissioners.

APPENDIX C.

REPORT of INSPECTORS to the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD of their INQUIRY into the PROPOSED AMALGAMATION of OUGHTERARD UNION with adjoining Unions.

Dublin, January, 1886.

OUGHTERARD UNION.

GENTLEMEN.—In accordance with the instructions conveyed in your letter of the 15th July, 1885, No. 29,493, we held an inquiry at Oughterard on the 11th of August into the proposal of the Guardians of Oughterard Union to amalgamate that Union with the adjoining Unions of Ballinrobe, Clifton, and Galway; and we have the honour to submit for your consideration the following Report:—

Original Formation of Oughterard Union.

The Oughterard Union was one of the fifty Unions recommended to be formed by the Boundary Commissioners of 1846 in pursuance of the general principles laid down in their report, that it was desirable to add to the number of workhouses in order that increased accommodation might be provided, and that relief should be brought within easy reach of the sick and destitute poor in every locality.

The Electoral Divisions of Wornahole, Letterfene, Oughterard, Yurrough, Lettermore, Crumpos, Gortanna, Cong, and Kilmannan were taken from the Galway Union, and Ross, Carr, Cong, Clonbar, and Letterbrickane from Ballinrobe Union.

The geographical situation of the Oughterard Union placed the Boundary Commissioners in a position of some difficulty. The valuation of the Electoral Divisions of the Galway Union above named, and of the Ballinrobe Electoral Divisions adjacent to Galway Union, for the benefit of which the Oughterard workhouse was obviously built, was insufficient to admit of the formation of a separate Union, and the Commissioners had therefore either to abandon the project of a new Union at Oughterard or to enlarge the area of taxation by the annexation of the three Divisions of Clonbar, Carr, and Ross.

The latter alternative was objectionable inasmuch as it would place the poor of these districts at a greatly increased distance from their centre of relief, besides being financially detrimental to the ratepayers.

The Commissioners, however, decided to recommend the establishment of the workhouse at Oughterard, and they were no doubt influenced by the terribly impoverished state of the Divisions of the Galway

Union, as well as by the overcrowded condition of the Ballinrobe and Galway workhouses.

Proceedings of Inspectors at present Inquiry.

We opened the inquiry at Oughterard on the 11th of August, after having duly notified our intention of doing so to the several Boards of Guardians that might be affected by the proposed dissolution of the Union. After having heard the evidence tendered by the Oughterard Guardians, both in favour of and against the proposition, we adjourned the inquiry for a few weeks in order to afford the Guardians of the adjoining Unions an opportunity of expressing their views on the subject.

Before re-opening the inquiry we transmitted to the Boards of Guardians of the three adjoining Unions a copy of the evidence submitted to us on the 11th of August, so that those who were absent might learn as far as possible the nature of the proposals put forward by the Guardians of Oughterard Union.

During both days of the inquiry considerable interest was excited, and there was a large attendance throughout.

After the conclusion of the taking of evidence, as soon as our other official engagements would permit, we visited the workhouses of the Galway, Clifton, and Ballinrobe Unions, and ascertained whether any buildings or wards could be made available for the reception of some of the sick and destitute now maintained in Oughterard Union; and at the same time we inspected those districts and roads concerning which evidence of a contradictory character had been given at the inquiry.

Evidence in support of Dissolution of the Union.

The proposal to dissolve the Union was agreed to by twelve out of twenty Guardians, who were present at the meeting of the Board when the question was under discussion. Seven of the majority were ex-officio Guardians, while the minority of eight were all elected members of the Board.

A general opinion as to the desirableness of the proposal appeared to prevail among all classes in the Electoral Divisions of Clonbar, Carr, and Ross, and memorials were subsequently transmitted to us, to which a very large number of signatures were appended.

[On the other hand the Guardians and Ratepayers of the Barony of Moyrales strenuously opposed the dismemberment of the Union, and memorials from this district, unanimously and influentially signed, were also transmitted to us.

The principal arguments in favour of the dissolution of the Union were laid before us by Lord Ardilaun on behalf of the ratepayers of Clonbur, Cong, and Ross, and he stated that the inhabitants of these divisions desired to be separated from Oughterard. They did not urge the dissolution of the Union, provided that in the event of their divisions being re-annexed to Ballinrobe, the remaining divisions would have an area of taxation sufficiently large to enable them to exist as a distinct Union; but they contended that if the Union could only be maintained at a sacrifice of the convenience and monetary interest of the ratepayers and poor of these divisions, they had reasonable grounds for demanding the dissolution of the Union, and more especially as it would not, it was alleged, injuriously affect the other divisions from any point of view.

The principal grounds for the proposal were that under the original scheme for the formation of Poor Law Unions, the sick and destitute of Clonbur, Cong, and Ross divisions were within easy reach of the workhouse and hospital, and the Guardians could attend to their Poor Law duties in their market town without inconvenience. Since the formation of the Oughterard Union, however, the inhabitants of these three divisions had been totally deprived, it was urged by Lord Ardilaun and the witnesses agreeing with him, from these advantages. It was further stated that facilities for crossing Lough Corrib do not exist, and that people were consequently obliged to undertake a laborious journey over a bad road to a remote workhouse, although the workhouse to which they formerly belonged was within a comparatively short distance.

Evidence was also given by the Medical Officer and the Relieving Officer of the District as to the danger and alleged impossibility of removing sick persons from Clonbur, Cong, and Ross to Oughterard that would benefit by hospital treatment, while the same persons might, it was stated, be removed without risk or inconvenience to Ballinrobe. This evidence was corroborated by the parish priest of Clonbur and some Guardians residing in the locality.

Evidence was not very fully given as to the most desirable distribution of the other Electoral Divisions in the event of dissolution, but the proposition appeared to be that Carr, Letterbrickane, Turlogh, and Kilsennock should be transferred to Turlogh, and the remaining divisions to Galway. It was represented by the Rev. M. Mellett, formerly M.P. of Carrane, that the divisions of Letterbrickane, Carrane, and Crumpan would benefit by being annexed to Galway, as they are nearer to the workhouse there than at Oughterard. The inhabitants of these divisions generally, he considered, would prefer being a part of Galway Union, as Galway is their market town, and people doing business there would often see their friends or relatives in hospital. The Medical Officer of the District also stated that he never thought of sending sick persons from the islands to Oughterard, in consequence of the knocking about they would get on the road, and he mentioned that it was his custom to send them to Galway County Infirmary, owing to an arrangement that he had with the doctor there. He further stated, however, that he would adhere to his present practice even if the islands were added to Galway Union.

Objections put forward to dissolution of the Union.

In the first place it may be observed that the Guardians of the Poor Law Unions of Galway, Clifton, and Ballinrobe are strongly opposed to receiving any portion of Oughterard Union.

It should further be borne in mind that a Royal

Commission in 1879 reported that "owing to the distance of some Electoral Divisions from the workhouse of adjoining Unions, and the crowded state of the workhouse of the Galway Union, the proposed dissolution (i.e., of Oughterard) would be impermissible." We shall later on refer more fully to the latter reason.

At the inquiry held by us the objections to the dissolution were mainly based on the grounds of the hardship and inconvenience that would result to the sick and poor of the divisions that would be more remote from a workhouse if the proposed change were carried into effect.

Several of the witnesses, however, who regarded the proposal unobjectionably stated that they would withdraw their objections if the ratepayers could reckon on a tangible financial advantage—a sum of from £4 to £8. In the pound was named—but the reduction of the rates would, in their opinion, have to be very considerable in order to compensate for the inconveniences which they apprehend would inevitably ensue.

They did not deny that advantages would result from the proposed change to the Electoral Divisions of Clonbur, Cong, and Ross on the whole, but it was asserted that Oughterard was equally convenient as a relief centre for Ross as Ballinrobe would be; and it was pointed out that the Electoral Divisions of Lettermort, Carrane, and Crumpan would be nearer to Oughterard than to Galway if a road which has been partially made were completed. The Rev. James Ouslock explained that at present cars can travel on five or six miles of this road; another part of it is buggy and dangerous for about six miles, so that actually about six miles of the road requires to be made, for a good road meets it from the other side.

Mr. Thomas Conroy also pointed out that there was a shorter route to the workhouse for the people of this district than that which they adopt, but the fact that during the last thirty-five years it has never been used would seem to show that there are objections to it that cannot be easily overcome.

The financial result of the proposed amalgamation was not placed before us in an accurate or detailed form by the guardians in favour of the project, but they assumed that taking the circumstances of the neighbouring unions into consideration, the change would not be unworkable to them.

Nor did the witnesses on the other side lay much stress on this feature of the case, their objection being apparently that the efficiency of the Poor Law would be impaired rather than that the result would operate injuriously from a financial point of view.

A suggestion was also made as to the erection of a cottage Fever Hospital at Clonbur for persons who could not be removed to either Ballinrobe or Oughterard.

Considerations as to Convenience of removing Sick and Infirm to Workhouses.

It may be seen from the foregoing review of the evidence that the whole question resolves itself into a consideration of the convenience of the sick and destitute poor; and we may briefly summarise the result of amalgamation in this respect by stating that out of the 26,707 inhabitants of the Oughterard Union, 12,389 persons would find the nature of relief more accessible to a greater or less extent if the proposed change were to take place, while 8,636 would have to travel increased distances varying in length.

The foregoing figures do not, however, convey a sufficiently accurate impression of the general effect of amalgamation, regarding distance as a measure of convenience. We have, therefore, prepared the following tables, which give more detailed information as to the comparative advantages and disadvantages that would be experienced, while they afford a better idea of the number of people whose position in regard to their workhouse would be materially altered.

No. I.—TABLE showing number of persons who would gain by amalgamation, and the number of miles respectively that would be saved.

Number of persons gaining two miles or less	318
Number of persons gaining between two and five miles	717
Number of persons gaining between five and ten miles	8,116
Number of persons gaining between ten and fifteen miles	613
Number of persons gaining between fifteen and twenty miles	247
Number of persons gaining between twenty and twenty-five miles	8,675
Total	19,316

No. II.—TABLE showing the number of persons who would lose by amalgamation, and the number of miles respectively that should be travelled in excess of the present distances.

Number of persons losing ten miles or less	42
Number of persons losing between ten and fifteen miles	184
Number of persons losing between fifteen and twenty miles	1,083
Number of persons losing between twenty and twenty-five miles	8,961
Number of persons losing between twenty-five and thirty miles	2,105
Number of persons losing between thirty and thirty-five miles	267
Total	13,642

It will be observed from the foregoing table that the number of people who would have an increased distance of over ten miles to travel in the event of the dissolution of the Oughterard Union would be 8,116, whereas the number of persons who would gain over ten miles would be only 2,945.

It should, perhaps, be stated that the number 20,707 is the total number of all classes within the Union of Oughterard, not an estimate of the number of those who are within or about the border line of pauperism.

Financial Results of Amalgamation.

The proposal not having been put forward on financial grounds, we have not thought it necessary to lay before your Board very minute statistical details of the probable result. We have, however, devoted careful consideration to this matter, and beg to submit the following summary of the probable result.

Taking the year ended March, 1885, as the basis of calculation, and assuming that the Electoral Divisions of Clonber, Cong, and Ross, were added to Ballinrobe there would be a probable saving of about 4d. in the £1 for these three Divisions.

The Divisions that would be annexed to Galway, would benefit to the extent of about 5d. in the £1 if the change were made.

In the case too of the Divisions that would be joined to Clifden there would be a slight saving, and further the persons in the Clifden Workhouse are maintained at a much lower rate than in Oughterard, in consequence of the favourable terms upon which contracts for the principal articles of food are obtained, and in this way these Divisions would gain by having their paupers supported in Clifden Workhouse.

The Ballinrobe, Galway, and Clifden ratepayers would gain to some extent by having a larger area upon which to assess their establishment and other charges which would not be proportionately increased by the addition of new Electoral Divisions.

Concluding Observations.

With regard to the evidence submitted to us by the witnesses from the Clonber District we do not think that it has been by any means clearly established that death or extreme hardship has ever been caused by the difficulties of transport to the workhouse in cases where people were removed, or by non-removal, owing to the disapproval of the journey on the part of the Medical Officer or of the patients themselves. We believe that if a light comfortable ambulance cart were procured, an average patient could be safely removed from any part of these Electoral Divisions to Oughterard.

It would seem, however, to be the contention of the people of this district that the hardship in their cases is aggravated by the comparative proximity of the

workhouse at Ballinrobe, and we must admit that their grievance is something more than sentimental, and that they have probably more ground for complaint than the people of Turlough and Letterfore would have if attached to Clifden, and for this reason—the road between Clifden and Turlough is for the greater part in extremely good order; public conveyances and a constant stream of traffic pass backward and forward daily, whereas this is not the case with Cong, Clonber, and Ross. The people of these Divisions have in few instances business transactions in Oughterard. The whole tide of the traffic and business of their district converges to Ballinrobe, and all the inconveniences of having a centre of relief at a considerable distance from the centre of business are fully realized in their case. There are no public conveyances between Oughterard and Clonber, and paupers from that district when taking their discharge from the workhouse, have no opportunities of being conveyed home by their friends who do not attend the Oughterard markets.

The financial difficulties of the Clifden Union do not directly come within the scope of our present inquiry, but the fact cannot be overlooked that one of the principal advantages to be gained by amalgamation is that the position of this struggling Union would be substantially improved by the enlarged area of taxation which it would obtain if the proposed scheme of amalgamation were carried out.

The workhouses of the Ballinrobe and Clifden Unions could provide sufficient accommodation for the poor of the divisions that might respectively be assigned to them.

Owing, however, to the already overcrowded state of the Female Infirmary in the Galway Workhouse, we have not the slightest hesitation in expressing an opinion that there is not room in the Galway Workhouse for the large number of aged and infirm people at present in the Oughterard Workhouse and chargeable to the Electoral Divisions that would be transferred to Galway Union.

This appears to be the most serious obstacle to the dissolution of Oughterard Union, assuming for a moment that it had been proved at the inquiry that the dissolution would be desirable on the grounds of the existence of exceptional hardships in the case of the inhabitants of Clonber, Cong and Ross.

The Guardians of the Galway Union are hostile to the proposal to dissolve Oughterard Union, and they would of course feel free to erect new buildings for the reception of additional paupers from the Oughterard Workhouse if the expense of the buildings should in any degree fall upon portions of the existing Galway Union.

The ratepayers of the Oughterard Electoral Divisions that would be transferred to Galway would no less object to bear a share in the cost of new buildings while there still exists the Oughterard Workhouse that was built for receiving paupers from the divisions in question.

The obstacle could only be removed, as far as we can see, by the improbable occurrence of a sale of the Workhouse and grounds at a price sufficiently high to provide for the cost of the necessary additional buildings at Galway out of the proportionate amount of the purchase money to be credited to the Electoral Divisions that would be transferred to the Galway Union. We say that a sale is improbable as it is unlikely that any private purchaser could be found, as the buildings are only suitable for some public purpose such as an auxiliary lunatic asylum, a suggestion that was indeed made by the Royal Commission of 1879, already referred to.

We have the honour to be, &c.,

H. A. RANNEY,

Wm. L. MICKS,

Inspectors, Local Government
Board for Ireland.

